

JPRS 79114

1 October 1981

Latin America Report

No. 2378

FBIS

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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U.S. ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA SCORED

CIA's Domestic, Foreign Activities

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jul 81 pp 6-8

[Article by Yolanda Gomez: "The CIA: Dirty Jobs, Political Crimes Inside and Outside the U.S."]

[Text] An airplane with the prime minister of India, Indira Gandhi, is ready to take off from New Delhi Airport.... Security agents inspect the plane with a fine tooth comb as is usual with flights of this kind.

A later inspection enabled them to discover that four of the plane's cables had been cut. At the start of the trip the plane would have gained altitude, but at a given point the pilot would have lost control and the plane would have fallen to earth.

The incident, characteristic of detective stories or Sherlock Holmes stories, was denounced by the Indian press as a conspiracy instigated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

According to the daily HINDUSTAN TIMES, the saboteurs were trained by members of the CIA and received precise instructions from the United States.

The agency, NEWS SERVICE, said that George Griffin, an important CIA official and responsible for raids in Afghanistan, infiltrated into Pakistan to coordinate espionage actions in India and direct Afghan counterrevolutionaries in their preparations against the New Delhi government.

Other conspiracies that give substance to reports in the local press of those responsible for the frustrated attack on the Indian chief of state indicate that concrete proof exists that the United States has fomented separation of the north-eastern part of the country with the intention of creating an independent state in Punjab.

The objectives appear to be clear: the division of India and the physical elimination of the prime minister of a country whose progressive policy interferes with American interests in the region.

The End Justifies...

Toward the end of the 15th century and the beginning of the 16th a Florentine politician and historian named Machiavelli wrote the work, "The Prince," in which he elaborated a social theory about the methods that should be used by a ruler to achieve his goals.

The protagonist would resort to any means, including crime, to achieve his objectives. The theory that "the end justifies the means" was the basis for the Italian historian's political thinking.

In the course of time the theory set forth in "The Prince" was transformed into a director of policy in various countries. It was said of Metternich that he was an admirer of Machiavelli, while a similar opinion was later expressed regarding former American Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The justification for using any means for the purpose of achieving a given end has been passed on from one administration to another in the United States and has become a visible procedure in CIA plans.

This U.S. espionage agency was created in 1947, almost at the start of the so-called "cold war," when witch hunts against and imprisonments of progressive citizens were becoming more common in that country.

In 1975, in the face of continual reports of the shocking attacks and other crimes perpetrated by this agency, a Senate committee began to hold public hearings.

A report later issued by that legislative body confirmed the reports that had for years been made by foreign governments and organizations and citizens inside and outside the United States about the conspiracies engineered and executed by the CIA against other countries.

This document related how in the fall of 1960 two CIA officials had a conversation with their superiors regarding a plan to assassinate Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba, at that time a leader who enjoyed great prestige because of his efforts for political independence on the African continent.

The report described how powerful poisons were sent to the Congo and exploratory steps about the people close to Lumumba were taken by the espionage agency in order to promote the macabre plan.

In early 1961 the Congolese leader was assassinated by "opponents," apparently without there being any proof of participation by the CIA or any other U.S. agency.

Another resounding success in which the CIA did not appear to be publicly implicated but which, nevertheless, seems to have been another plan instigated by this U.S. espionage agency was the shocking kidnaping, murder and later disappearance of the Moroccan leader, Ben Barka, shortly before the inauguration of the Tricontinental Conference in Cuba.

In January 1966, in an article by its correspondent in Rabat, the capital of Morocco, the BRITISH DAILY EXPRESS reported that "the CIA gave instructions to the kidnapers and presumed murderers" of the prestigious African leader.

These statements were published even though the fate of Ben Barka, whose body or the remains of whose body were never found since it is supposed that they were burned or dumped into the sea near some part of North Africa or Southern Europe, was unknown.

Officials of the Moroccan security service publicly acknowledged that the participants in this success, most of whom were paid killers or underworld and mafia figures, were trained by the U.S. CIA.

Aims? To behead the unity movement of the countries of the so-called Third World, of Africa, Asia and Latin America, which in early 1966 were to meet in Havana.

Mahdi Ben Barka was then chairman of the organizing committee for the conference and a prestigious leader of the national liberation movement on the African continent.

The Senate committee's own reports also confirmed CIA participation in attacks on heads of countries that were U.S. allies. Thus, for example, its instigation of the attack on Rafael Leonidas Trujillo in the Dominican Republic and on Ngo Dinh Diem, when the latter no longer served American interests in the Saigon regime, were mentioned in these reports.

Attacks on Fidel Castro

Among the most shocking of the projects for attacks on foreign political leaders was the drafting of at least eight plans for the assassination of the Cuban revolutionary leader and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Fidel Castro.

One of the attempts made on Fidel Castro's life was the one that was carried out on 21 November 1963, just on the eve of the assassination in Dallas, Texas, which ended the life of then president of the United States, John F. Kennedy.

The CIA had previously worked out another plan, for the execution of which it associated with U.S. underworld figures, even though the plan for an invasion of the Bay of Pigs (Playa Giron) by mercenaries had not yet been developed.

They contacted Robert Maheu, a former CIA agent who was close to oil magnate Howard Hughes and who, in turn, was entrusted with the task of talking to John Rosselli, an American underworld figure.

As acknowledged in the Senate committee report, the cover for Maheu's plans was that he would represent groups of influential American businessmen who needed to physically eliminate the Cuban leader who had launched profound changes on the island.

Others to be involved in the plan were Sam Giancana, Santos Traficante and other well-known American mafia figures.

But the CIA uses these methods on U.S. soil too.

A December 1978 report issued by a Senate committee that had investigated political assassinations in the United States, especially that of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, asserted that the president had been the victim of a conspiracy.

After 2 years of investigations the legislative body confirmed that the assassinations of black leader Martin Luther King and Sen Robert Kennedy, both of which occurred in 1968, were also the results of a conspiracy and that they were not simply bloody acts committed by "lone assassins," as determined by the nation's courts.

The report on the death of Kennedy rejected an investigation by the so-called "Warren Commission" conducted in 1964. That commission had discounted conspiracy, its conclusion being the only one concerning the assassination that had been officially accepted.

As a result of the 1978 Senate committee report, the CIA publicly confirmed that it would maintain secrecy on documents relating to the assassination of Kennedy. The then assistant director of that agency, Frank Carlucci, at present undersecretary of defense and former ambassador to Portugal, at that time said "that the disclosure of certain documents would have an affect on the protection of highly sensitive sources" used by the espionage agency.

But the daily NEW YORK TIMES had already revealed that the presumed sole assassin of Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, had worked for the CIA in Japan at the end of the 1950's at a radar base in that Asian country.

In August 1978 a U.S. House of Representatives committee on administrative affairs rejected the investigations of political crimes conducted in the 1960's, which included those against the Kennedy brothers and Pastor Martin Luther King.

In the opinion of the NEW YORK TIMES of 10 August 1978, this decision was made when new details on the assassinations, which might throw some light on these political crimes, became known.

Despite these facts about the CIA's dirty role inside and outside of the United States, in April 1981 reforms introduced into the agency's code of behavior revoked a 1978 executive order. Now the CIA can pursue its secret actions abroad and within the country without any legal problems. From now on the agency's dirty jobs will be regarded as "matters of national security."

Relations With Third World

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish Jul 81 pp 59-61

[Article by Hector Danilo: "Raw Materials: Confronting Plunder; U.S. Maneuvers With Third World Exports"]

[Text] American interests are working to the detriment of international efforts aimed at procuring stable markets for the underdeveloped countries.

The Reagan administration's recent decision to block the negotiations on maritime rights the United Nations is sponsoring is fully consistent with the line Washington will be pursuing as regards raw materials and basic products exported by the developing world.

Various international public opinion media agree in noting that the American attitude toward maritime rights is dictated by the transnational companies, which are eager to take possession of the mineral wealth of the oceans, and official American circles that are trying to impose maritime military supremacy on the world.

Without intending to do so, yet confirming this evaluation, the daily WASHINGTON POST early last March revealed that U.S. opposition to the Maritime Rights Treaty comes from companies committed to mining programs on the high seas, companies led by the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, the U.S. Steel Corporation and the Kennecott Cooper Corporation.

The attitude the current American administration has assumed toward the Third Conference on Maritime Rights, which was about to reach final agreement on an issue that has been debated since 1958, leads us to anticipate that the United States will in future adopt a position opposed to any negotiation which involves the establishment of remunerative prices in raw material and basic product trade.

The Republican Party platform favors strong protectionism in the U.S. market as well as absolutely free competition in the rest of the world, which places the interests of the transnational companies foremost to the detriment of international efforts aimed at seeing to it that developing countries will have stable markets.

The Reagan administration has so far refused to assume commitments as concerns aid for the Third World and problems of development, and this is unquestionably of importance in the domain of raw materials.

Such a philosophy emerges as practically a threat to the immense majority of the developing countries, which announced their decision to defend the purchasing power of their exports during the Sixth Summit Conference of Chiefs of State or Government of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries held in Havana in September 1979.

Proof of the fact that the United States now intends to more stubbornly than before obstruct protectionist policies adopted by producer countries has become evident not only during the negotiations on maritime rights.

Against Associations

In early March the United States and other market economy industrial nations were severely criticized by Mexico, which rejected the various maneuvers engaged in by these nations to keep the cotton-exporting countries from founding a producers association that would protect their interests.

The statement was made by Mexican Undersecretary of Foreign Trade Hector Hernandez at the inauguration in Mexico City of a technical seminar for cotton-producing, developing countries, sponsored by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

UNCTAD recently reported that the textile fiber market is increasingly being dominated by a small group of oligopolies.

The UNCTAD study reports that between 85 and 90 percent of the world cotton market is in the hands of some 15 transnational companies, eight of which are American, five Japanese and two European.

The manipulations these companies conduct make it — as the official who wrote the report describes it — "very urgent" for us to create a bloc of producer countries to offset the dominant position of the industrial nations, put an end to their speculative maneuvers at the international level and achieve stabilization of fiber prices.

With cacao exporters, which are chiefly African and Latin-American countries, Washington maintains an attitude of intransigence.

The chief difficulty in the way of effective functioning of the cacao agreement lies in the fact that the United States and other EEC countries are trying to force the exporters to accept a minimum price of \$1.10 a pound, thus taking advantage of the current surplus supply.

It is a known fact that the International Monetary Fund, which not long ago issued a loan of \$580 million to Ivory Coast, one of the world's chief producers of cacao, is pressuring that country to break off relations with the rest of the producers.

Elsewhere too, the silence the American State Department has maintained concerning the boycotts United Brands and its subsidiary, the Chiriqui Land Company, have been engaging in against the Multinational Banana Marketing Company (COMUNBANA), composed of Panama, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Colombia and Honduras, is suspicious.

According to COMUNBANA sources, that transnational company's dual purpose is to hinder organizational operations and, at the right moment, make it difficult to freely market the bananas, which are hoarded by its members at a time when the fruit is being sold at a good price on international markets.

Raw Materials and Cold War

The American Government has declared that it will do everything in its power to lessen American industry's dependence on foreign supplies, alleging that this is a national security requirement.

However, this plan, which injects an atmosphere of tension into the field of international trade, is calculated to exercise control over the natural resources of the developing countries in the face of their efficient Japanese and West European industrial competitors.

American politicians are still of the opinion that with every passing day the developing countries have a greater effect on the economic life of the United States through providing it with its fundamental supplies of raw materials. They therefore support the assumption that the situation forces the White House to shape the political fate of these nations.

Consequently, this would explain why one of the basic objectives of the present administration would be to try to reverse the progress made by the developing countries during the past decade when, taking advantage of the current balance of power, the so-called Third World took important steps in the struggle to obtain its economic demands through the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, the 77 Group and the producer associations which reduced the freedom of action the transnational companies enjoyed in operating in the raw material trade with the developing nations.

One way of reducing the negotiating power of the developing countries that seems to interest the present administration in Washington has to do with the purchase of strategic minerals to build up large, long term reserves.

This solution would make it easier for the American transnational corporations to capriciously manipulate the raw material market while the federal government would be in a position to exert pressures on one country or given groups of countries whenever Washington's foreign policy needs required it.

The economic impact that this line of action can have is already intimidating countries, including some that are U.S. allies.

Governments that enjoy the favor of the White House, like Malaysia and Bolivia, have publicly reported the adverse consequences the decision made last year by the United States to dump 35,000 tons of tin on the international market would have for their countries.

Paradoxically, these reserves were accumulated by the United States during World War II when Bolivia and other exporters sold it large quantities of the mineral at less than a dollar a pound.

To advance his program for the building up of strategic reserves, last 13 March President Reagan ordered an initial investment of \$100 million for the first purchases of basic minerals. "This," said Reagan, "is the beginning of my overall program to lessen U.S. industry's dependence on problems involving reductions in raw materials."

The Military Factor

The militaristic connotation of the plan can also be sensed. Federal agencies responsible for the American reserve programs have already revealed plans for acquiring 540,000 kg of cobalt, a metal that is indispensable for the military equipment industry.

The American Government plans to in the near future buy bauxite, columbiur, nickel, platinum, rubber, tantalum, titanium and vanadium.

With these purchases African, Asian and Latin-American producers will be exposed to vulnerable situations.

In view of the current international economic crisis, Washington apparently feels that ideal conditions for the building of reserves of key minerals are again appearing due to the decline in price of some raw materials.

With the exception of oil the general price index of raw materials exported by Latin America has dropped 7 points during the past 12 months, whereas quotations for manufactured goods which Latin America imports from the United States, Western Europe and Japan rose from 154 to 174 points during the same period according to official figures from the Organization of American States (OAS).

The stocking of oil, primarily for military purposes, occupies a predominant priority in this strategy, particularly in terms of an economic situation in which specialized American organizations like the Rand Corporation assert that the United States has already consumed most of its oil stocks and that it has only enough crude oil left for some 20 years.

At the beginning of this year the American Government was storing an average of 100,000 barrels a day in the salt mines of Louisiana and Texas, but this figure rose to 160,000 last February.

According to the Republican Party platform, the Reagan administration intends to have a billion barrels stored in the not too distant future with which it will avail itself of a pressure factor that can be applied against the OPEC countries.

Energy Autonomy

Inside Latin America U.S. authorities have focused their sights on the oil of countries like Venezuela which, in the words of the Reagan Cabinet's secretary of interior, James G. Watt, is "a very important supplier of the United States in terms of meeting its defense needs."

American authorities are right now making a determined attempt to force Mexico to join a so-called energy common market in which Canada would also participate, while the United States would act as the predominant member.

The recent reduction of customs privileges for Mexican products that enter the U.S. market has been interpreted by specialists at the National University of Mexico as a Reagan administration reprisal against President Jose Lopez Portillo's position favoring the maintenance of autonomy in the domain of energy. A military alternative against Mexico has also been planned. Regarding this, in its Thursday, 11 April 1981, edition the Mexican daily, EL DIA, reproduced the text of a press conference held by an American expert last December in which a plan for an invasion of the Mexican oilfields that had been proposed to the Reagan government is sketched.

The specialist was Clyde Mark of the Division of Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Library of Congress Research Service.

According to this specialist's plan, to take the Mexican oilfields a surprise force capable of preventing any sabotage action, capturing everything intact, without incurring any damage and controlling the country's army would be needed.

Mark said that the idea surfaced as the result of a study that demonstrated the practical impossibility of the U.S. Army's occupying the oilfields of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq or Kuwait.

"It does not require much imagination to think where those areas are that are closest to us: Venezuela, Canada and obviously Mexico," the Washington expert maintained.

The consequences the Reagan team's raw materials policy could have for the developing countries are worrisome.

This government's approach to these problems will only work against the negotiation of agreements on raw materials and basic products while it offers ample room for maneuvering to those companies that speculate with the natural wealth of the developing world.

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CSO: 3010/1798

ELPIDIO VALDIVIA COMMENTARIES CRITICIZE U.S. POLICIES

State Terrorism

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 19 Jul 81 pp 14-15

[Article by Elpidio Valdivia: "Father of State Terrorism"]

[Text] Some time since 1974, the multinational enterprises in the so-called "Trilateral Commission," concerned by the effect that the U.S. lack of international prestige had on their objectives of world domination, drew up new guidelines for U.S. foreign policy.

Those guidelines were designed to create the feeling that a new stage was beginning which would coincide with the image that the Carter administration had to project when it came to office. This was true internally as well as externally after the Vietnam fiasco and Nixon's Watergate scandal.

The cornerstone on which that image would rest was the hypocritical campaign "in defense of human rights," a typical example of ideological subversion planned and coordinated by the United States, the leader of imperialism.

What background did the United States have for that campaign? More than 100 years ago--on 28 July 1868 to be exact--the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified by the majority of the states in the union and became a substantial part of that fundamental law. It granted citizenship to the blacks and stated that all those born in that country, with the exception of the Indians, had equal rights.

Examples of how that constitutional amendment is respected include the shocking police repression of the blacks during the "hot summer" of 1967 in Detroit and Newark and last year in Miami. Little has changed for the 25 million blacks in spite of the official statements on human rights. Racial discrimination lies on their shoulders like a heavy tombstone.

While overall unemployment reached 6.7 percent in June 1980, it was 14 percent among the black population and has continued to grow. It is the same with the Indian minorities whose rights are continually violated by the authorities. Other examples of the U.S. Government's respect for human rights are the massacres of women, children and old people at Song My and My Lai in Vietnam and the treatment of illegal Mexican workers, the "wetbacks," rounded up like wild cattle on the Mexican border.

The alleged defense of human rights was difficult to reconcile with the excellent relations with the dictatorial and antipopular regimes like Somoza's in Nicaragua, the South Korean regime, Stroessner's in Paraguay and the South African racists. Administration spokesmen modestly tried to hide these actions under the wilted fig leaf of public condemnations of the most spectacular human rights violations by the military regimes in Argentina and Chile.

The U.S. voters who went to the polls in 1980 expressed their discontent with the results of the last Democratic administration.

Parodying the simile used in the March 1981 issue of the magazine AFRICA-ASIA based in Paris, the new president Ronald Reagan, a former actor in cowboy movies, entered history like a cowboy who comes into a Western bar, rustling his spurs, to challenge the "villain." In this case, the villain is the USSR which, in one of his first speeches from the White House, Reagan accused of "killing, cheating and lying" and "exporting terrorism to the Western hemisphere."

The human rights doctrine was immediately attacked in public. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, stated that it was "utopian to practice without taking the political and historic context into consideration and, being ineffective...it became a selective hostile policy toward authoritarian regimes." She persuades us: "It is like boasting of affected virtues to follow a hypocritical political path."

It was an attempt to demonstrate to the U.S. public that this had been one of the main causes for the deterioration of the positions of "friendly governments"--read proimperialist dictatorships--and had intensified the liberation process in Africa, Latin America and, especially, Central America.

A statement given in Montevideo by the assistant secretary of state for Latin America, John Bushnell, and spread to the world by the Spanish news agency EFE said that President Reagan's policy will change emphasis concerning Latin America and human rights compared to Jimmy Carter's policy.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig specified these changes. In a speech before the Trilateral Commission last 31 March, he emphasized that, concerning the topic of human rights, "we want to point out that we must be analytical in our actions, taking into account the source of the violation and the impact of our protest on the violator. We must distinguish between the so-called totalitarian and authoritarian regimes."

His language could not be clearer. According to imperialist propaganda, the communists are accused of being totalitarian. Authoritarian regimes are a euphemistic name for the bloody dictatorships which are "friends" due to their strong anticommunism. The general turned diplomat continued: "Concerning the violation of human rights, we must not only weigh international repercussions (whether the regime helps or hurts international aggression) and the background of those who are in power but the background and the program of those in the opposition. We have seen in recent years how a policy not based on these principles can contribute to an eventual failure: the overthrow of a bulwark against aggression and the replacement of an authoritarian regime by a totalitarian regime."

This language means bluntly that the triumph of the revolution in Cuba should have been prevented by helping the Batista regime more. In Nicaragua, the Sandinist victory should have been prevented by helping Somoza much more. It also means that Stroessner, Pinochet and the fascist Christian Democrat junta in El Salvador will not be abandoned. That put the human rights doctrine in its "proper" place, according to the Republican administration.

Instead, the propaganda of U.S. foreign policy has concentrated on the new campaign to "fight international terrorism" announced by Reagan himself.

Terrorism is a serious crime under international law.

State encouragement of terrorism is considered a form of aggression and a crime against the peace and security of the peoples. The Cuban Penal Code punishes someone who commits the crime of terrorism with imprisonment for 10 to 20 years or death. Article 111 to Article 114 inclusive of that legal code are devoted to describing different forms of that crime.

Nevertheless, imperialist propaganda does not refer to this terrorism. To the Republican administration, "terrorism" is the fight for national liberation of the peoples, their legitimate right to choose the social development that seems best to them.

To Marxism-Leninism, to communists, it is a basic principle that revolutions are not exportable, the people themselves make revolutions. This does not exclude international solidarity with the national liberation movement of the peoples.

Using fear of Soviet-Cuban aid, President Reagan approved increased military and economic aid to friendly dictatorships to combat "Cuban-Soviet subversion in Central America," according to information in the NEW YORK TIMES.

An analysis published by the Political Studies Institute in Washington entitled "Fighting future wars: the new counterinsurgency" states: "Throughout the Third World, U.S. aid again flows toward the right-wing dictatorships which face indigenous guerrilla movements....After years of concentrating on strengthening NATO, the Pentagon has silently stepped up training troops involved with guerrillas."

At this time, the fight against "terrorism" has particular urgency in Central America, especially in El Salvador where more and more millions of dollars are invested in military aid and mercenaries like the Green Berets, helicopter pilots and other technicians are sent. It is like the beginning of the filthy Vietnam War. All of them are covered under the mantle of counterinsurgency (read counterrevolution) specialists. This is all done to keep the fascist Christian Democrat junta in power, the cause of more than 22,000 murders of noncombatant civilians during the 18 months that it has misgoverned that country.

A lie will always be a lie, whether it is wielded by alleged defenders of "real human rights" or by staunch defenders of "the victims of international terrorism." According to a report in the NEW YORK TIMES citing sources in Congress and the administration, a preliminary report written by the CIA concludes by saying that there is not sufficient evidence to back up the administration's accusations that the Soviet Union directly encourages international terrorism.

The Spanish news agency EFE, in a dispatch dated 29 March 1981, commented on this news, stating that the CIA report, in its final preparation stage, openly contradicts the repeated veiled and direct accusations of the Reagan administration that Moscow trains, equips and finances international terrorist groups. It added that when CIA director William J. Casey learned of its conclusions, he revealed administration pressure that the CIA "adapt" its analysis to the political opinions of the government.

The effectiveness of this "pressure"--whose economic or extraeconomic nature remains "mercifully" unspoken--to twist the possible professional integrity of the analysis is revealed in a statement by the ARF news agency based in the Pentagon on 17 June 1981. It pointed out that a report issued by the CIA the day before stated that "the Soviets are deeply involved in supporting revolutionary violence which frequently includes acts of international terrorism."

The father of international terrorism is the United States itself. Members of the terrorist group Omega 7 made up by Cuban expatriates who were trained by the CIA itself find shelter there. There are also those who, through open terrorist actions, support the activities of the mercenary bands that fight the popular government in Afghanistan, giving them chemical weapons with which they recently attacked defenseless students in Kabul.

There also are those who encourage "raids" by the South African Republic against its neighbors in which children, women, old people and noncombatant civilians are indiscriminately massacred in SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and ANC [African National Congress] refugee camps. There are those who supplied Israel with sophisticated weapons that are used against the peaceful inhabitants of Lebanon and the Arab territories and who openly tell the world that this will not affect the ties between the United States and Israel in spite of the use of those weapons.

This is the worst form of terrorism, state terrorism.

Abraham Lincoln, U.S. president who abolished slavery in the last century, said: "We are living in a time that demands that we think in a new way because the world has changed." This statement which was valid in the middle of the 19th century acquires greater validity now. Today there is a socialist bloc which must be taken into account.

The nonaligned countries make their voice heard in the international arena. They speak for peace, self-determination of the peoples and a new international economic order.

The world is different and the propaganda campaigns cannot go back to the past. The same thing that happened to "the human rights policy" will happen to "the fight against international terrorism."

Huge Defense Budgets

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 26 Jul 81 pp 16-17

[Article by Elpidio Valdivia: "Fire Will Put out the Firemen"]

[Text] Like some Charlie Chaplin film, the Pentagon strategists developed an assembly-line assortment of military doctrines, differentiated in form and alike in objective.

This is the case of the so-called Rapid Deployment Force which, a little more than a year since its creation, occupies the attention of the Republican team.

The "Soviet threat" seems to be an exotic disease that deprives Reagan and his closest collaborators of sleep.

Strong anti-Sovietism, one of the basic pillars of his electoral campaign, is the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. This has caused more than one quarrel with the allies in Western Europe and the Caribbean countries.

Revitalization of the work to put the Rapid Deployment Force or Rapid Intervention Force, occasionally defined as the "Firemen's Brigade," into complete combat readiness is part of the Republican foreign policy to make voters and allies believe that it is the bulwark of defense of "national interests" and Western interests.

This is the way they justify the incredible military budgets, the constant growth of the military industry and the dizzying development of the arms race.

The "Firemen's Brigade" is not a new idea but the evolutionary result of other variants tried by previous Washington administrations.

Its predecessors were the Strategic Army Corps, the Riot Command and, lastly, the Top Combat Readiness Command, created in 1972 and still in existence. All had the mission of acting in any part of the world.

The formation and equipping of these new firemen have not been finished yet. A period of 3 to 5 years for their formation as a unified command--until 1985--is planned and at least 6 years--until 1987--for their complete equipping with modern air and naval transport, now being planned and constructed.

The general staff of that mobile brigade is at McDill Air Base in Florida. Gen Robert Kingston has just been named chief of the strategic unit.

The principal mission of this unit is to arrive quickly and enter into combat immediately, basically in the Middle East and Indian Ocean area.

The nature and content of its missions are clear to any observer who briefly analyzes the statements of Gen David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces.

At the beginning of 1981, he told Congress:

"The problems of security are no longer merely regional problems; they have world-wide consequences....We live in an era when a coup d'etat, an important strike, a terrorist attack or a war between neighboring countries in a remote place can start worldwide repercussions that affect the well-being and the national security of the United States and its allies."

He fallaciously analyzed the geographic proximity between the Soviet Union and the main oil-exporting countries in the Middle East as well as the uncertainty whether the USSR might become strictly an oil importer or exporter and the "danger" that either of these two cases represented for U.S. "security."

With the strong anticommunism that characterizes the Republican team, Jones emphasized that if the Soviets achieved domination in that area, they could "bring the West to its knees without moving one soldier." He added that "the most critical vulnerability for our collective interests (the United States and its allies) is in the southwestern Arabian gulf region."

In the light of this political argument, it would be fitting to ask: What really are the "vital interests" that must be so zealously defended by the "Firemen's Brigade"?

The answer is very simple: to maintain control of the sources of oil supply and to prevent the appearance, development and consolidation of revolutionary movements that endanger traditional control over strategic raw materials.

Some data will help understand this better.

Since the beginning of the last decade, the United States has faced a fuel shortage while its internal demand has increased.

Five of the "Seven Sisters," multinational firms that control the production, refining and marketing process of the precious fuel in the West, are U.S. firms.

According to 1977 statistics, the world produced 3,017,900,000 tons of oil. Of these, 1.104 billion spouted from Middle Eastern wells, a region that held 57.1 percent of the world reserves in 1978.

Most oil exports from the Middle East flow toward the United States, Western Europe and Japan. They received 69.2 percent of that oil in 1977, excluding shipments from Algeria and Libya.

To defend its "vital interests" and those of its allies, the Republican hawks in the White House provided about 200,000 men for the Rapid Intervention Brigade, organized to act in groups of a few thousand--a reinforced battalion--up to four or five divisions with the ability to land from the air or the sea and fight without reinforcements for up to 30 days.

To date, two airborne divisions, three Marine amphibious brigades, two infantry divisions--one of them mechanized--and up to 100,000 reservists have been assigned to it. It also has combat, transport and exploration ships and airplanes and other equipment needed to make war.

To guarantee fulfillment of the basic concept--rapid deployment--they need appropriate opportunities and means in times of peace.

Near Diego Garcia, they maintain all the materiel of the Seventh Marine Brigade on board seven freight ships. In the Mediterranean, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean they have three Marine battalions and their combat equipment on board transport and landing ships, ready to intervene in defense "of the well-being and national security of the United States."

The creation of special units is also intended to keep the military industry, one of the most important in the country, expanding so that it does not lag behind in its fabulous profits. Where others wade, it dives in.

This industry is working on various projects for the Rapid Deployment Force which pays it billions of dollars from the pockets of the U.S. workers.

To equip the Rapid Deployment Force, 15 especially designed roll-on/roll-off ships will be built by 1987 at a cost of \$337.8 million. All the heavy equipment and other supplies for these troops will be kept on board these ships.

A new transport airplane temporarily called "C-X" is being manufactured to carry tanks and other heavy equipment great distances. The C-X's costing \$253.3 million should be operational by 1984.

Also 26 sophisticated KC-10 airplanes that combine resupply and air transport capacities will be supplied.

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger defined the new Republican military doctrine, explaining that it is necessary to establish conditions to fight two major wars at the same time instead of one and a half and to guarantee the intervention of U.S. armed forces in the Middle East which includes the Arabian gulf.

That region, located on the southeastern flank of the Soviet Union, is a point of contact for Europe, Asia and Africa and serves as a bridge between the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. This, along with the tumultuous political and military situation in the area, shows its extraordinary economic, political and military importance in the international arena.

Therefore, it is no accident that the present Republican administration plans to carry out one of the two wars planned in its new military doctrine in that area.

This explains the stir about the reactivation of the Rapid Intervention Force whose leadership has been openly disputed by different generals. It also explains the pressure by the United States on different countries to obtain military bases near the Soviet Union.

The governments of Egypt, Somalia, Kenya and Oman have compromised their sovereignty by handing over military bases in their territories to the United States for the aggressive "Firemen's Brigade."

The United States will spend hundreds of millions of dollars to establish the conditions to use those military bases for their armed forces. They plan to quarter up to two infantry divisions in Ras Banas, Egypt, and they are also interested in a network of Saudi Arabian air bases and airports.

These objectives of U.S. military penetration in oil country were criticized a few weeks ago when a conference of all the Arabian gulf countries concluded that the security of that water corridor corresponded only to the Arabian nations that surround it.

At the recent 26th Congress of the Communist Party of the USSR, these dangerous actions of the Reagan-Haig binomial were answered. It was explained that the Soviet Union feels that peace is the most beautiful and necessary legacy of mankind.

On 23 June, the Supreme Soviet of the USSR approved a "call to the parliaments and peoples of the world" which stated:

"Political tension has intensified. The achievement of military superiority is again stressed and the language of threats is used. There are open attempts to intervene in the affairs of other countries and peoples. All this is done under the clumsy invention of a 'Soviet military threat.'

"The Supreme Soviet of the USSR solemnly proclaims that the Soviet Union does not threaten anyone and does not want a confrontation with any country in the West or the East. The Soviet Union did not try and does not try to achieve military superiority. It was not and will not initiate escalations in the arms race. There is no type of armament that it is not willing to limit or ban based on reciprocity, mutual agreement with other states.

"Peace is the common heritage of mankind and, in our era, it is also the main condition for its existence."

Reaffirming the Soviet decision to defend world peace, Nikolai Ogarkov, marshal of the Soviet Union, first vice minister and chief of staff of the armed forces, indicated last Thursday that "the tentacles of U.S. imperialism extend toward all regions of the world and carry out provocations and sabotage mainly against socialist countries, those that liberate themselves and movements of national liberation."

Marshal Ogarkov added: "If there was an attack against the USSR or its allies, it would be answered with strong defensive actions by their armed forces which would know how to take the offensive on land, air and sea."

The Rapid Deployment Force is a foreign policy anachronism of the Republican hawks who daily increase the danger of a world conflagration.

Support for the need for these military forces is the "philosophy" that tries to convince the peoples, among other fallacies, that the Soviet Union and not Israel is the enemy of the Arab world.

Increasingly broader sectors of the United States disapprove of this road to war and defend peace. Those same people are beginning to rise up against the unpopular

economic measures of the White House which mercilessly cut allocations for social programs, education and public health and open the purses for military expenditures.

The Rapid Deployment Force, a symbol of crisis more than power, will go down in history as the "firemen" who failed in their mission by colliding with the unquenchable fire of reality.

The Rapid Deployment Force is the latest innovation of those who feel that the spread of progressive movements will force them to wander around the world like inept policemen. They are firemen until the fire of reality frustrates their boasts as conquerors.

Arms Sales Abroad

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 9 Aug 81 pp 12-13

[Article by Elpidio Valdivia: "The Hidden Face of the Enemy"]

[Text] The White House has just made good its motto to pay for loyalty with loyalty by opening wide the floodgates of military and economic aid for governments that have challenged the decency of world public opinion for years with an impressive record of torture and crimes.

A few days ago, the U.S. Republican administration repeated its disapproval of the so-called human rights policy of President Jimmy Carter which prohibited selling arms and giving economic aid to those regimes including the regime of Chilean traitor Augusto Pinochet.

That coup government as well as the authorities in Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina received \$483.8 million from the World Bank and the IDB with U.S. support.

The legal barriers that impeded arms and advice for these allies whose Ministries of War and Interior gloat over these awards were also knocked down.

Paradoxically, the ridiculous Republican logorrhea claiming to be do-gooders and protectors of mankind is the same as saying: judge me by what I say and not what I do.

According to the hawks in the White House, the sale of arms abroad is an "essential element" of the global defense position facing the Soviet threat and an "indispensable component" of U.S. foreign policy.

As a result of this dangerous doctrine, the leaders of the arms industry will increase their funds by the astronomical sum of \$23 billion in the 1982 fiscal year which begins in October. This is merely for military sales abroad, reaffirming it as the top exporter in the world.

They will also receive some \$100 billion for research, development of projects and construction of armaments under the military budget for the same period and tens of millions more for the same thing for other government agencies.

The largest military budget in U.S. history--\$136 billion which is 11.3 times the 1945 budget--was approved a few days ago by Congress in order to remain the primary military power in the world.

Of this, \$72.4 billion are devoted to research, development and purchase of armaments and the rest to maintenance and operations of the armed forces. It includes mass extermination weapons, nuclear weapons and chemical and bacteriological weapons.

It could be asked why the tens, hundreds or thousands of millions of dollars spent for research, development, manufacture and use by the CIA and other similar organs of subtle and extraordinarily harmful chemical, biological and bacteriological weapons are not publicized.

The unrestrained arms race, the transfer of arms and military advice to dictatorships which other U.S. presidents did not dare do and the accusing silence to the challenge presented by our commander in chief, Fidel Castro, on 26 July concerning the use of chemical and bacteriological war against Cuba are unmistakable signs of the cynical policy of the U.S. administration.

"We challenge the U.S. Government to define its policy in this field, to say whether the CIA will be authorized again or not--or is already being authorized--to organize attacks on the leaders of the revolution and to use diseases against our plants, our animals and our people," the president of the Council of State stated at that time.

The sale of arms to other countries and the funds for military expenditures for 1982 increased by 31.4 and 24 percent respectively, breaking all the records of previous administrations. This can be compared to the drastic reductions in the allocations for social sectors.

The light of human understanding helps us comprehend who benefits from the Washington arms race by converting the resources necessary to save lives into fatal instruments. They threaten the rest of the world and force them to spend enormous sums for defense.

It would be fitting to ask why, in a world where, according to UN statistical data, hundreds of millions of people have low standards of living infant deaths occur every minute and there are 800 million illiterates and 500 million undernourished, imperialism squanders billions of dollars on military machinery instead of saving a similar number of human lives.

The U.S. industrial complex, characterized by an immeasurable selfishness and great degree of monopolization, sees its existence and lucrative development conditioned by the construction of increasingly more fatal weapons and does not stint its efforts to encourage wars and local conflicts.

There are thousands of contracting and subcontracting enterprises in the United States devoted to war production. The main firms, less than 100, control almost 70 percent of the specialized orders while 25 of the most powerful monopolize 50 percent of the contracts.

Statistics show that the Pentagon gave them orders for \$55.6 billion in 1977. In 1979, this increased 12.5 percent (\$13.8 million more) and the first Republican military budget will double this.

They are opposed to total and general disarmament because, in a world free from the danger of war, weapons would turn into resources for the peaceful and integral development of society. If that dream materialized, it would cause the collapse of the war profiteers.

We will use facts and figures to better understand the basic reasoning of the arms manufacturers. According to Pentagon statistics, Lockheed Aircraft sextupled the contracts it received from 1957 to 1979—from \$308.7 million to \$1.797 billion. General Dynamics and General Electric tripled theirs from \$1,127,400,000 and \$916,400,000 in 1957 to \$3.042 billion and \$2.042 billion respectively.

McDonald-Douglas, United Technologies, IBM, Boeing, North American Aviation, Chance Vought Aircraft, General Motors, Northrup and Sperry Rands—to mention only a few—also benefit from the production of mass extermination weapons.

The net profits from military production are much higher than those of civil industry and keep growing. Each year the percentage of the million-dollar profits increases with the perpetual increase of expenditures for war production.

The 1957 U.S. budget allocated \$17 billion to the Pentagon; of this, \$5.815 billion or 34 percent was paid to 12 monopolies in the industrial military complex which had an average of 17.9-percent profit or \$1,049,900,000.

In 1973, the profits were estimated at more than 56 percent compared to civil industry which barely reached 10 percent.

The sale of arms abroad is part of the U.S. world strategy to confront the so-called "security problems" presented to the Armed Services Committee of Congress in 1981 by Gen David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"Military power counts in a world where the use and potential use of decisive military power can influence policies, alignments and actions," Jones said.

This explanation permits us to easily understand the objectives of the Republican team when, using all available means, it tries to militarily strengthen its friendly governments despite their "criminal record" toward mankind.

Analyzing the situation in our hemisphere to support his request for more military funds, General Jones emphasized: "Cuban military ties with the Soviet Union and the development of the Soviet air and naval presence in Cuba represent the most significant military threat to U.S. security interests in the hemisphere."

According to this Pentagon leader, this "threatens the collective security of the region." To defend it in the Western style of contemporary "armed cowboys," surrounded by their dreams and nightmares, the present administration hurries to increase economic and military aid to the Christian Democrat junta of Jose Napoleon

Duarte--which has murdered thousands of Salvadoran patriots thanks to the flow of arms, explosives and U.S. "counterinsurgency" advisers--and to other dictatorships in the hemisphere.

The increase in military sales will be directed basically toward the areas whose security is of primary importance to the Republican team: the Middle East, Central and South America, the Caribbean and parts of Africa and the Far East.

The CIA plans recently denounced by distinguished Colombian writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez are equally dangerous. These are related to Yankee interventionist negotiations between Venezuela and Colombia in order to reconcile their mutual interests and to have each one permit arms to be shipped to the other. In that way, they can "balance" Cuban military power in the Caribbean.

Could there be another explanation for Venezuela's acquisition of 24 to 36 F-16 fighter-bombers and interceptors?

The human, scientific, energy and economic resources squandered by the United States and other allies on the arms race could solve the evils that afflict mankind, especially in the so-called Third World where there is not enough food, medical care, sanitary installations, educational facilities, mass transportation, housing, recreational means, etc.

The amount spent on only one strategic bomber--\$80 million--could build more than 60 preuniversity schools with capacity for 500 students each like the Eusebio Sanchez Dominguez School in Abreus, Cienfuegos. Or it could build five surgical and training clinic-hospitals like the Celia Sanchez Manduley Hospital which opened this year in Manzanillo, each with 630 beds and the capacity to treat 1,584 patients a day.

UN statistical data show that \$40 billion are needed to eradicate hunger, disease and illiteracy from the face of the earth.

In 1982 alone, the Pentagon will waste three and a half times that figure on the arms race. This would be enough to eliminate those evils and build schools, hospitals, houses and factories that would solve the problems of more than 200 million needy people.

The United Nations and the peace-loving countries headed by the USSR try to achieve general and complete disarmament while Washington races on and drags other nations along in its frantic military competition.

From World War II until today, the United Nations has adopted about 300 resolutions devoted exclusively to the problem of disarmament, seeking--among other objectives --to free funds and resources for humanitarian projects.

The war pyre fed by the hawks is a good example of their military doctrines that deprive mankind today of the necessary resources to eliminate the apocalyptic evils that afflict it.

There is an undeniable truth: times change. The present international reality is no exception to that philosophical maxim. It is a new version of a well-known children's story. Now the ferocious wolf is afraid and seeks help from the other beasts of the jungle to protect it from peaceful Little Red Ridinghood.

Anti-Cuban Campaign

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 Aug 81 pp 14-15

[Article by Elpidio Valdivia: "Essay on a Strategic Failure"]

[Text] Once more the strategists in the White House, the Pentagon and the CIA combine plans to justify the increased diplomatic, military and political campaigns against Cuba.

A few days ago, top U.S. representatives were very concerned because--according to them--the Soviet Union was delivering unprecedented quantities of weapons to Cuba. They included a conventional submarine, a 2,300-ton frigate, 15 gunboats and airplanes. They added that this increase changed the FAR, giving it offensive capabilities beyond the coasts, endangered stability in the Caribbean and other arguments along that line.

They added the opinion that Cuba creates "two strangulation points" on the two entrances to the Gulf of Mexico and dominates the Straits of Florida on the north and Windward Passage on the east. They also said that the ocean routes in the area are vital for the United States because 65 percent of its oil, 60 percent of the bauxite and almost 100 percent of other very important elements and minerals cross the Caribbean Sea.

Earlier, when testifying before a congressional committee, Gen David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said: "As a result of Cuba's proximity to vital maritime routes, the Soviets and the Cubans might feel tempted to impede the movement of troops, supplies and raw materials in the Gulf of Mexico or in the Caribbean in times of war and attack key installations in the area."

Leading another angry anti-Cuban attack by the Republican team, General Haig, in a speech to the U.S. Bar Association in New Orleans, Louisiana, last week, repeated speculations about the "excess" of weapons received by Cuba and developed a new thesis.

He said: "That armament level is in no way designed to serve only the needs of the Cuban Armed Forces" nor is it justified "facing any potential threat (against Cuba) from this hemisphere."

The secretary of state's rhetoric demonstrates that he has a very bad memory or suffers impaired faculties which keeps him from seeing and hearing reality which is diametrically opposed to what he says.

The 20-year history of harassment and aggression against the Cuban revolution leaves no room for mistakes about who threatens whom in this part of the world.

• If two decades are not enough, it would suffice to recall only the most recent U.S. military activities that directly or indirectly include Cuba among its potential objectives.

Aren't the constant U.S. military activities around our island and in the illegally occupied territory of Guantanamo--like "Defex," "Reader," "Unitas," "Ocean Venture," "Solid Shield" and many other secret maneuvers, all with great deployment and demonstration of force--serious provocations, threats and dangers for Cuba?

Data from the Institute of Strategic Studies in London indicate that in 1980, the U.S. Armed Forces had more than 2 million men in arms, counting reservists. There were up to 30 different divisions, more than 1,650 intercontinental ballistic missiles with nuclear heads emplaced on land and submarines, thousands of airplanes of every type, more than 1,000 warships including dozens of nuclear ships, more than 300 transport and landing boats and many other military resources.

Isn't it ridiculous to state that the top imperialist military and nuclear power in the world feels threatened by one small frigate, a conventional submarine and the armed forces of a country whose economic potential, territory and population are incomparably less than its own?

It is obvious that the United States has no right to get involved in the internal affairs of Cuba, a sovereign and independent state, and to dictate what arms and how many arms it can have to defend itself from the hostile policy of a powerful and aggressive neighbor.

So far this year, hundreds of warships and several aircraft carriers, along with thousands of U.S. Marines, carried out training programs near Cuba.

These troops include the Caribbean Sea Contingency Force created in October 1979 after the failed pseudocrisis promoted by the Carter administration concerning the presence of a small contingent of Soviet military instructors on Cuban soil.

Based in Cayo Hueso with the principal mission of "defending U.S. interests and controlling and directing" the actions of its armed forces in the region, its chief, Rear Adm Robert P. McKenzie, is now carrying out aggressive programs in the multinational maneuver "Ocean Venture-81."

Now they are carrying out the combined air-naval maneuvers "Unitas XXII" in which they sail around the Americas with the armed forces of Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile, among other countries. These maneuvers will last until October.

With seven members of NATO, Spain, Portugal and some Latin American countries, they are carrying out the largest U.S. military maneuver since World War II: the mentioned "Ocean Venture-81."

A spokesman for the Atlantic Command announced that that multinational practice would involve 120,000 soldiers, 250 ships and some 1,000 airplanes in demonstrations and a massive movement of amphibious troops from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean and vice versa. It has the double objective of carrying out the planned

relief of the forces presently assigned to the Sixth Fleet in that area and testing its ability to make naval reinforcements.

The date of the naval exercise is from July to September. It reached its greatest intensity on 1 August and its maximum point this week when it extended to the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Baltic Sea, the waters off Norway near Soviet territory, the North and South Atlantic and the coasts of some participating countries.

It has just essentially completed the Caribbean stage of this dangerous war game which is a provocation against the progressive forces of Central America and the Caribbean--primarily Grenada and Cuba. This is clearly established in the tactical idea for the exercises.

According to the feverish imagination of the Pentagon strategists, the invented "situation" focuses on "Amber" Island which has an army of 2,200 soldiers and sovereignty over the "Amberine" Islands. It exports terrorist activities and holds 30 "honorable" U.S. citizens hostage, condemned to death by the government of that fictitious country.

Another expansionist nation, "Orange," has regional goals supported by "Red" which allegedly promotes political instability in the region.

The similarities are obvious. Grenada has an army estimated by Pentagon intelligence and the CIA at some 2,000 men. It has sovereignty over the Grenadine Islands and U.S. officials have repeatedly accused it of exporting terrorist acts.

Cuba shows up as the country that maintains excellent relations with Grenada ("Amber") and the Soviet Union ("Red"). The dynamics of the mock battle could not be more obvious. By publicizing it, U.S. news agencies like the AP unintentionally offer unequivocal proof of the aggressive plans of the Pentagon against Cuba, Grenada and other sovereign countries in the area. The need for the Cuban FAR to have modern and effective means to resist, repel and defeat aggression that can only come from the Pentagon and the CIA is also obvious.

On 6 August, the naval component of the Caribbean Contingency Force went to sea from its bases on the U.S. eastern coast and met the British and Dutch ships participating in "Ocean Venture" in the Atlantic. They went in convoy--some 20 warships--toward the Puerto Rican area.

Continuing the fictitious situation, when the naval detachments approached the Puerto Rican beaches--including the island of Vieques--3 days later, more than 300 special troops, Green Berets, in the 75th Army Ranger Battalion flew from California to Vieques. It was selected for its geographic similarity to "Amber." They landed by parachute with the mission of rescuing the "hostages" about to be executed after diplomatic negotiations for their release had failed.

After the Marines landed, they would be relieved by a regular army contingent and the National Guard which would land by helicopter. They "overthrew" the government and installed a new team favorable to Washington and opposed to those who permitted the alleged hostage crisis.

A detachment of Dutch "Marines" also participated in the naval landings on the Puerto Rico-Vieques range.

"Amber" was defeated and controled, according to their fantastic plans, through actions that were filled with errors and fatal accidents in spite of the fact that they were carried out on beaches and territories that no one was defending. Then another chapter in their freakish political fiction began: the capture of "Orange."

Last Saturday night, an amphibious group that included the LPH-9 helicopter carrier "Guam," a landing dock, two tank-landing ships, a reinforced Marine battalion and the covering naval units advanced "secretly" toward Guantanamo Naval Base. It was already mobilized under combat alert and in complete combat readiness in the third and largest defense exercise this year--"Defex 3-81"--as part of "Ocean Venture."

The invasion and dreamed-of conquest of "Orange" began at dawn on Sunday with an amphibious landing of a Marine company on Playa Molino on the eastern coast of Guantanamo. Three other companies, launched from helicopters at different points in the interior of the Cuban territory illegally occupied by the Yankee government, participated.

In order to protect the lives and property of U.S. citizens threatened by "Orange," a pretext already used in its punitive aggression against many countries, they simulated an evacuation.

They transferred some 400 civilians to the dock area of Guantanamo Base, made them board the helicopter carrier "Guam" and take an unwanted trip along the Cuban coasts of the illegally occupied area, pretending that they were going to Jacksonville, Florida.

The details of the invasion of Grenada and Cuba, expressed with apparent calm by the chief of the Guantanamo Base, Captain Fitzgerald, and the chief of the contingency force, Rear Admiral McKenzie, do not constitute any potential threat to Cuba "from this hemisphere" according to the proclaimed concepts of the Republican team.

Nevertheless, their innocent war games have as loud a tone as the colors attributed to their hypothetical rivals.

Since the United States has considered the Caribbean a U.S. lake where its gunboats repeatedly imposed the law of the strongest for about a century, "Ocean Venture-81" has the sad result of reminding the peoples in the region that this policy of the big stick--this time without a carrot--is being reactivated at its worst by the Republican administration in the White House.

Facing these threats which are much more real than the dangers that the arms acquired by Cuba can represent for the United States, it is unnecessary to explain the obligation of the Cuban revolution to be prepared to defend the conquests of its people.

In Fidel's words, "the enemy that comes here will not have a front. The front will be everywhere: over, under, behind, in front, wherever."

Because of this determination--already demonstrated in each previous attempt to destroy revolutionary Cuba--it is not unusual that the United States is testing a certain strategic failure--"Ocean Venture-81"--ahead of time.

AFGHAN POLITICAL PROBLEMS BLAMED ON U.S., CIA

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 Aug 81 pp 18-19

[Article by Armando Lopez Rivera: "Who Directs Conspiracy?"]

[Text] Give a liar a chance and he will try to change a jackal into an eagle, according to an old Afghan saying. This folk wisdom is usually evoked when the inventions of imperialist and Beijing propaganda intended to distort the reality of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are heard or read. Or when they try to present the criminal actions of the counterrevolutionary bands that infiltrate from the border areas of China and Pakistan as a "popular movement."

Proimperialist news media call the seditious scum--landowners, some clan and tribe leaders, bourgeoisie and usurers, mercenaries and illiterate peasants deceived by propaganda--"patriots." They present dynamite attacks on hospitals and schools, the shooting of students and members of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and other terrorist activities as "heroic" actions. The Chinese press, in chorus with the Western media, calls the efforts and peace initiatives of the USSR and Afghanistan "pure hoax" and "propaganda maneuvers."

These propaganda attacks are nothing new.

The April 1978 revolution destroyed the feudal system in Afghanistan, a Central Asian country which is considered among the poorest and most backward in the world. The process of revolutionary transformations aimed at overcoming the backwardness inherited from the deposed regime started immediately.

At the same time, feudal and bourgeois forces resisted losing their privileges. After fruitless attempts to subvert the newly established order, they fled abroad where they received political, military and financial aid from imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and Arab reactionaries.

As a prelude to the Beijing animosity toward democratic Afghanistan, Hua Guofeng visited Iran in 1978 and asked the Shah, who was still in power, to oppose the consolidation of popular power in the neighboring country.

It was perhaps one of the first signs of the international conspiracy aimed at destabilizing the regime and restoring the feudal-monarchical order. Washington was leading the subversive plan as the main organizer and inspiration and, as was to be expected, the leaders of Beijing were at its right hand. A special CIA group

directed by Robert Lessard and based in the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad was in charge of coordinating anti-Afghan actions.

Peshawar: Center of the Counterrevolution

Peshawar, a Pakistani city near the Afghan border, became the center of the counter-revolution and base for military actions against the Kabul regime. Some 30 camps and 50 support points were quickly organized where Chinese, U.S., Pakistani and Egyptian specialists train and arm the seditious groups which then infiltrate into Afghanistan.

A torrent of modern weapons for the counterrevolutionary bands started to flow from China to Pakistan: "ground-air" missiles, mortars, recoilless rifles and guns including the AK-47 automatic. The main supply routes are the Karakorum highway, a strategic highway that joins northeastern Pakistan and the Chinese province of Xinjiang, and the Pakistani ports of Cachemira and Gwadar.

In Xinjiang, Chinese instructors train bandit groups, saboteurs and spies for the "undeclared war" against the Afghan regime. Two pro-Maoist groups, Shoaleye Djawid and Sorkha, and two reactionary organizations, Musulman Brothers and Hezbe Islami, are also involved. They all participated in the organization of the bloody events of Herat (March 1979) and in Kabul (February 1980).

Behind the anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan hysteria exacerbated by Beijing lies the expansionist intention of the Chinese leaders at the expense of Afghan territory. Afghan lands have always been one of the main objectives of the expansionist policy of the feudal sovereigns of the Celestial Empire along the so-called "silk route" that connected eastern Asia with central Asian countries.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the mainland Chinese chauvinists consider that territory "land lost by China." They include it on the maps as part of their fiefs and demand "ancient historic rights."

They show special interest in the Afghan province of Badakhshan which borders the USSR and China. Its border with China extends along 70 kilometers, each kilometer a base of aggression against Afghanistan.

Afghanistan was the main topic in the talks held in January 1980 between Chinese leaders and former U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown. On that occasion, U.S.-Chinese actions against Afghanistan were negotiated. Beijing promised to increase arms supplies to Pakistan and to the counterrevolutionary bands and, in exchange, Washington gave permission to sell its new allies technical equipment for military use.

Although the Carter administration tried to camouflage this interference, the new tenant in the White House, Ronald Reagan, defiantly removed the mask and announced the decision to increase arms supplies to the rebels.

When security organs in Kabul have arrested saboteurs or defeated the counterrevolutionary bands that infiltrated Afghan territory, they have confiscated U.S. and Chinese weapons, explosives, portable radio transmitters, false documents, leaflets,

magnetic tapes with antigovernmental recordings and large sums of U.S., British, West German and Pakistani currency.

Chemical weapons made in the United States have been confiscated. The authorities showed the international press grenades filled with a gas known as C-S which is fatal to humans and pollutes the environment. Only a very small concentration is needed to poison and kill: 1/10,000 part of a milligram. They were marked "made in USA" and some prisoners admitted that they had been given to them before they infiltrated.

At the beginning of July, security forces and the militia deactivated a terrorist band in Kabul tied to Hezbe Islami in Peshawar. Other important counterrevolutionary bands were wiped out in the middle of July in the mountainous territory of Paghman some 30 kilometers from the capital and in different parts of the provinces of Herat, Semangan, Ghor and Tekhar. This frustrated the plans of Washington and Beijing against democratic Afghanistan.

Pakistan in Strategic Plans

Why did Pakistan become the spearhead of the aggression against Afghanistan? Its selection was certainly no accident. It has a favorable geographic position bordering Iran and Afghanistan, close to the Soviet Union, connected to China through the Karakorum highway and with close ties between Islamabad and Beijing. This leads to the conclusion that it was impossible to find a more ideal place.

Different reactionary emissaries came to Islamabad to strengthen military ties with General Zia-ul-Haq and increase the arms supply to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries in the border region. These emissaries included: the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom and China, Lord Carrington and Huang Hua respectively, and former president Carter's adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

More recently, Zhao Ziyang, premier of the Council of State of the People's Republic of China, went to Islamabad and promised "firm support" to Zia-ul-Haq's regime. In deciphering this statement, observers indicate that it means agreement about the creation of the "atomic bomb of Islam," classic arms supplies, the construction of new military installations in the Karakorum highway area and adaptation of a Chinese naval base, according to the Indian press, in the port of Karachi. There is also coordination of actions against Afghanistan which was revealed during the tour by Zhao Ziyang and Zia-ul-Haq through one of the Afghan counterrevolutionary camps. Zhao Ziyang told them about "China's solidarity."

The United States and China are paying generously for the Pakistani president's selling out. During Foreign Minister Agha Shahi's recent visit to Washington, a plan was made for the supply of \$2.5 billion worth of U.S. arms to reequip and modernize Zia-ul-Haq's army. Deliveries will be made over a period of 5 years and are aimed at converting Islamabad into the policeman of the Middle East and Southeast Asia and filling the vacuum left by Iran in the Pentagon's plans. Part of this will be used for the acquisition of modern F-16 fighter-bombers and M-60 tanks.

Beijing does not lag behind. China has supplied armaments worth \$2 billion to Pakistan since 1965.

According to the specialists, the strategic objectives of this "aid" are summarized as: arming this country to the teeth and encouraging the nuclear ambitions of General Zia-Ul; opening the way to the Indian Ocean basin through Pakistani territory; playing Washington's game of establishing military bases in the region; and using the geographic proximity between Pakistan and Afghanistan to deploy counterrevolutionary subversion against Afghanistan.

The Indian newspaper PATRIOT said: "General Zia-Ul Haq promised that he would permit his country to be converted into a more active military base for operations against Afghanistan on the condition that Pakistan received sufficient military aid. In other words, he said he was ready to intensify the conflict on the Afghan-Pakistani border if the United States guaranteed the success of the military adventure."

There are plenty of arguments to demonstrate that the so-called "Afghan problem" is a fable created by Washington and Beijing for their mutual interests in the region. Their diatribes and frantic propaganda campaigns are aimed at deflecting attention from their interference and aggressiveness toward Afghanistan as expressed in the popular saying: "The liar tries to turn the jackal into an eagle."

7717

CSO: 3010/1801

U.S. POLICIES IN AID TO EL SALVADOR CRITICIZED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 5 Jul 81 pp 16-17

[Article by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] Unceasing resistance and armed harassment by the guerrilla fighters and genocidal and political shortsightedness on the part of fascism's supporters--that is the most recent panorama that presents itself when recent events in El Salvador are analyzed.

Strong positions in more than half of the country's 14 departments [political subdivisions] have been maintained by the members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. That aspect is enough to demolish the civilian-military junta's lies aimed at making people believe that the insurgents have been hit hard.

Surprise attacks, timely retreats, ambushes, sabotage, and sporadic head-on encounters with troops from the killer army are a few manifestations of the struggle as carried on recently by the FMLN.

Chalatenango, Morazan, areas near the Honduran border, Suchitoto, and the Chichontepec Volcano have been the scenes of action by the patriots. Especially worthy of attention is the resistance they showed in the last of those places despite the heavy artillery and air fire directed at the location.

In fact, the troops sent to dislodge the detachments from the hill were forced to turn aside to Guazapa in view of the uselessness of their effort.

It is useful to emphasize those partial victories, because U.S. officials are continuing to "advise" their local counterparts, the massive entry of U.S. military equipment is continuing, and the genocidal forces continue to enjoy a logistical advantage in the form of resources, transportation, communications, and armament.

Such superiority seems to have emboldened the army's top leaders. Following Yankee orders, they have undertaken actions designed to dislodge the front's members from their supposed locations.

For every six local officers, there is one sent by the White House, and among them they agreed to order thousands of soldiers forward with the difficult mission of tracking through the thick mountain vegetation in search of some telltale trace.

The United States disregards the question of whether this costs a lot of dollars. While denying its credit assistance to Nicaragua, it opens its coffers to the greedy hands of the criminals Napoleon Duarte, Colonels Jaime Abdul Gutierrez and Jose Guillermo Garcia, and the rest of the high-ranking officers.

Contributions even turn up for the battered economy. Through the intermediary of AID, Washington will provide El Salvador with \$105 million in 1981, including a big share for the private sector. A \$27.2-million loan on soft terms has also been granted.

Deane Hinton, the ambassador to El Salvador, said recently that the Reagan administration is "committed to seeing that the junta is not overthrown by an armed insurrection." The human rights situation is a trivial matter--but "very bad," according to the diplomat himself. He will not engage in public activities "to denounce anyone," even when U.S. citizens are being threatened.

Considering such a lack of scruples even where its own compatriots are concerned, it is not surprising to note the attitude adopted by the State Department toward the political future. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has been one of those behind the thesis that supports "elections" scheduled for March 1982 by the civilian and military ruling assassins.

The former general in command of NATO forces has adopted the issue of El Salvador as his own. His opinions are amazingly similar to those of Napoleon Duarte. He often promotes his protege and provides "disclosures" concerning the secret goings-on in the Central American nation. Mr Haig seemingly rules the roost within the Republican cabinet when it comes to handling that situation.

It is obvious that holding elections is the biggest joke that can be played on such a massacred people. The Christian Democrats themselves predict that it will be a success if 50 percent of the inhabitants vote. It is clear from the estimates by the politicians that the other half may be dead by 1982. The prediction is not a preposterous one. We should remember the 22,000 murders committed between January 1980 and June 1981.

It is hardly likely that public opinion and the international organizations will ratify a "consultation of the people" in the midst of a situation of internal war, where there is a state of siege, a suspension of constitutional rights, a curfew at 2300 hours, a ban on meetings, the destruction of factories and stores, high unemployment, alarming emigration, and so on.

Those elections have been scheduled for the sole purpose of "pronouncing a blessing" over the fascist military who are in power behind a Christian Democratic facade. For some reason, one of the regime's spokesmen, Jose A. Morales Erlich, said: "We will hold those elections even if we do so under a hail of bullets."

Beyond the tradition of fraud, the citizens are wondering what democratic purpose is served in inviting the political parties to join the show and identify 25 of their founders and 3,000 of their members. Anyone doing such a thing would be giving the death squads--made up of members of the army--carte blanche to murder most of them.

Alexander Haig, Napoleon, and Abdul are stooping to gain time, their assumption being that while preparations are being made for the elections, they may be able to put

together suitable mechanisms for crushing the guerrilla fighters for good. But there is quite a distance between the minds of those men and reality.

That is why those same brains have opposed certain attempts at mediation by specific groups. The secretary of state and his puppets--pursuing strategies prepared by the Reagan administration--are proving reluctant to sit down at a negotiating table and implicitly recognize the FMLN.

Speaking in Chile about the elections after participation by the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) had been banned, Colonel Abdul Gutierrez hinted that if any political group abandoned the armed option as a means of solution--and changed its name as well--it could take part in the election.

The officer-despot was trying to create a rift in the opposition and was also following the advice of his host, Augusto Pinochet, whom he decorated, by the way, in recognition of the latter's "achievements in the defense of democracy."

Lacking international support, the civilian-military junta had sent the above-named ringleader to Chile and Uruguay to seek support for the indiscriminate slaughter. Minister of Foreign Affairs Fidel Chavez Mena flew to Argentina and obtained economic aid there.

There may have been talk of the so-called mini-Marshall Plan, a harebrained mixture of the Alliance for Progress and "justified" intervention that was thought up at the White House by advisers under Haig's command.

Drawn up essentially for El Salvador and approved by Napoleon and his accomplices, the plan is meant to resemble the plan of the same name which was implemented in Europe after World War II--but which was nothing more than an anticommunist campaign hidden behind the facade of an influx of monetary contributions. In practice, it was a massive inflow of investment capital.

Suddenly the Reagan administration is noticing the unbearable poverty in Central America and, ignoring its real causes, wants to send several thousand dollars--while also facilitating the work of monopoly capital.

In so doing, it would also be insuring political preparations for and even the "justification" of later military intervention in case the persistent Yankee interest in neutralizing the area's national liberation movements were to fail.

For some reason, Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo stated that he would agree to help with contributions to the development of the areas in question--but with no prior conditions--if the contributions would satisfy the hopes of the peoples.

To date, that seems to be the latest revelation concerning Yankee machinations in the attempt to interfere even further in that convulsed region. Again the brains of Haig and his advisers and the approval of Napoleon, Abdul and other puppets are joining forces in a stratagem directed against the true and just aspirations of millions of human beings.

11798

CSO: 3010/1803

U.S. DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS IN GRENADA

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 2 Aug 81 pp 18-19

[Article by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] The facile use of tendentious adjectives is a congenital defect of capitalist press agencies. In the case of Grenada, that small spot of land in the eastern Caribbean, the cloak-and-dagger correspondents are working the game of facile labels to death in their constant inclination to confuse the reader and tell him indirectly who is "bad" or "good" according to the AP, UPI, AFP [FRENCH PRESS AGENCY], and so on.

When the ordinary analyst observes a reiteration of that sort of epithet--which violates the strict rules of journalistic grammar--he must immediately associate that fact with the internal situation of the country or government in question. Imperialism is surely working to discredit it.

That is what is happening in the case of Grenada. While the multinationals of misinformation confuse things, the CIA tries out different variants of destabilization, interfering openly in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation.

The press media and the crime organization have recently stepped up their actions against the tiny island. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has denounced a plan prepared in all its particulars by the central espionage organization and aimed at overthrowing his government. The prime minister drew attention to the special features of that foolhardy attempt in comparison with others before it.

According to the investigation, this time the local reactionary agents did not seek external support for their machinations. Instead, the Yankee agency itself sought out the local pawns.

A group of 26 people--landowners, merchants, exploiters, reactionary lawyers, and corrupt union officials--sponsored the publication of a weekly newspaper calling itself THE VOICE OF GRENADA. Its purpose was to become a fifth column in the midst of the revolutionary process.

According to Bishop, the first part of the plan consisted of publishing libel, and then, following the government countermeasures that were sure to come, of encouraging strikes and disorders capable of sowing violence and thus clearing the way for a mercenary invasion.

The rapid closing of the publication, the people's demonstrations in support of that decision, and the determined statements by the prime minister in denouncing the plot took the wind out of the conspirators' sails, several of whom could hit upon nothing better than accusing the authorities in St George's of alleged violations of "freedom of the press."

That story has been seen in too many other places to be considered original. The individuals involved in the maneuver belonged to something called the Grenada National Party for Reconstruction and Freedom. Despite its pompous name, they have not reconstructed anything in recent months--on the contrary, they have, with their counterrevolutionary pamphlets, done quite a bit to destroy the existing order.

Before the weekly newspaper was launched, Ashley Wills, first secretary in the U.S. Embassy in Barbados and identified by many as chief of the regional CIA station, visited Grenada's capital and made known his government's conditions for a supposed improvement in bilateral relations. He also held suspicious meetings with several of the newspaper's publishers.

All of that background information reveals how Washington has been working around the island's authorities in recent months. The movements mentioned throw light on the most recent attitude in the White House in connection with measures aimed at implementing the so-called mini-Marshall Plan. That name has been given to blossoming cooperation aimed at Central America, but the United States obviously wants to restrict it solely to its friends and to deliver it after being convinced of the recipient's loyalty.

When the White House approached Canada, Venezuela, and Mexico for help in making up the contributions, it found objections to the design of the project. Mexico, with the characteristic honesty of its foreign policy, agreed to help the region's underdeveloped nations, but without attaching any political requirements.

A meeting of foreign ministers from the four countries, held recently in the Bahamas, revealed the differences on that point and emphasized the failure of the Yankee machinations aimed at eliminating Grenada and Nicaragua from the list of recipients.

Not a month passes without the White House ideologists rehearsing plans to besiege the small island, which is "guilty" solely of choosing a government that defends independence and nonalignment. They want to stifle the example, but they cannot.

After objecting to the idea of contributing to construction of a new airport--which is indispensable for economic development--the Reagan administration promised last June to deliver \$4 million to the CDB (Caribbean Development Bank) only if it was guaranteed that the authorities in St George's would receive no part of it. The CDB finally refused the aid on such terms.

The concern to cut off Grenada's sources of funds stands out in contrast to the specific instructions being received by Yankee bankers and tycoons to invest in Jamaica following the delivery of some \$980 million to Prime Minister Edward Seaga, in whom Ronald Reagan himself has exceedingly great confidence.

But all those measures aimed at asphyxiating Bishop's government economically and politically have been checked by certain obstacles located in Washington's path--basically the visible increase in citizen support for the measures decreed by the prime minister.

In addition, the recent holding of a conference of CARICOM foreign ministers in St George's marks an important step by the tiny Caribbean states toward refusing to let ideas of external or internal policy be imposed on them by imperialism.

Rumors of various kinds were started by the reactionary forces to the effect that the conclave would be suspended. The opposite occurred, and those attending renewed their commitment in favor of the community and of regional exchange. They also favored the reopening of dialogue following the indefinite postponement of a similar meeting that was to have been held at the end of 1980.

That favorable Caribbean context formed the setting for the establishment of the OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States), which was set up recently by Saint Vincent, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Montserrat, Saint Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, Antigua, and Grenada.

Urgent economic needs, inflation, and unemployment have led the English-speaking islands to set up another structure--which does not exclude CARICOM--capable of formulating urgent solutions in view of the unequal trade with their traditional markets.

For Grenada, such measures constitute a path destined to overcome a certain lack of confidence on the part of its neighbors based on Yankee lies concerning the revolutionary process there.

It is certain that the small states will be able to solve some of their many problems if they group themselves around their common aspirations. In that way as well, they will stand up to the imperialist diversionary tactic of "divide and conquer."

11798

CSO: 3010/1803

WORK OF FAR'S SPECIAL ELECTORAL COMMITTEE REVIEWED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 19 Jul 81 pp 56-57

[Text] The work done by the Special Election Commission of the FAR, with a view to the election of delegates to the municipal people's government assemblies in the special election districts of the FAR was analyzed recently in the presence of FAR personnel who are members of the provincial election commissions and members of the election process support commissions in the various commands. "

During this activity, the representatives of the various provinces and the special township of the Isle of Youth made announcements regarding the number of special election districts in the FAR which were created in their respective territories and reported the number of election areas and boards that will be created on the basis of the principle of bringing the board to the voter in order to avoid unnecessary travel.

The members of the election process support commissions, which had been created in the various commands, then reported on the organizational measures which are being taken to guarantee the success of this important task and they stress the extensive work of agitation and propaganda which is being done in all units with a view to mobilizing the personnel to achieve their conscious participation in the process of electing delegates to the local people's government organs.

In addressing the meeting, held in the Central House of the FAR, Lt Col Eustaquio Izquierdo Miranda, the vice chairman of the Special Election Commission of the FAR, talked about the main task that must be accomplished between now and the time the elections are held.

He noted that the students at the Military Training Centers will participate in the election process in their respective places of assignment in September when they return from their vacations; this is why they should not turn up right now on the voter lists in their places of residence.

Elsewhere in his address, he talked about the candidate nomination meetings which will be held between 1 and 20 August and he stated that these meetings must have a high attendance percentage which is why it is necessary to step up the agitation and propaganda work so as to mobilize all personnel.

Two Opinions

During one of the breaks in the course of the meeting, we managed to exchange some opinions with Lt cols Fernando Udaeta and Alfredo Alvarez, both of the Central Army.

Concerning the propaganda and agitation work relating to the election process, Lieutenant Colonel Alvarez informed us that all pertinent measures have already been taken to carry out a broad activity program so as to make sure that the message will reach every fighting man.

"The election process," he told us, "is very important for the entire country and therefore also for our Revolutionary Armed Forces.

"This is why our army from the very first moment on decided meticulously to do the entire job of propaganda and agitation, employing various forms in accordance with our possibility.

"For example, the political sections in our units have begun to hold conversations, talks, question-and-answer sessions, etc., where we analyze each of the aspects of the election process for delegates to the people's government organs in a nice but at the same time thorough fashion."

"How is graphic propaganda being used?"

"In accordance with the agitation and propaganda plan drawn up by the Central Political Directorate of the FAR, we are preparing photo exhibits which in a synthetic fashion will show some of the most relevant experiences in earlier elections."

"But that is not all," he added. "Our army's information organ, the periodical EN GUARDIA, has already begun to disclose everything relating to this important activity which is approaching, through its pages.

"This effort is furthermore being boosted through the use of posters and slogans as well as through the reading and study of articles in our Socialist Constitution which mention the election system."

Lieutenant Colonel Udaeta talked to us about the organizational work that was done: "Since the month of June, when we began to work on everything dealing with the preparation and organization of the elections, we have been carrying out a series of efforts in that direction.

"Initially we tackled the task of making the corresponding proposals with a view to the creation of special election districts. We established the election process development commission of the army and we designated the activities on the various echelons on which we have already held several meetings in the course of which we spelled out the most important guidelines for our work. During the meetings held with the chiefs of the political sections and the deputy chiefs for political activities, we took up topics dealing with the indications given by the Central Political Directorate and other questions relating directly to the entire process. As part of our initial organizational effort we also drew up specific guidelines intended to guarantee the best possible attendance at and quality of the candidate

nomination meetings and we are currently working to make sure that the personnel movements, resulting from the accomplishment of various training tasks, will affect the successful development of these meetings as little as possible. We believe that the work we must do demands great organization and cohesion on the part of all of us who are involved in this effort.

Nevertheless, the Central Army, as in handling all other tasks, will likewise accomplish this task with the kind of quality and enthusiasm that has always characterized all of its personnel.

5058

CSO:3010/1805

FAR CIVILIAN WORKERS MEETING ON EDUCATION GOALS

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 2 Aug 81 p 56

[Article by Hilario Pino y Brizuela: "Ninth-Grade Education for Military Construction Workers"]

[Text] The auditorium of the "Angel A. Aballi" Hospital was the scene for the general education meeting of the SNTC-FAR [National Union of Construction Workers--Revolutionary Armed Forces] in the Military Personnel Construction and Billetting Sector. The central topic of this event was the development of the battle for the ninth grade.

The report presented on that occasion was characterized by its profound critical and self-critical approach. The delegates enthusiastically and aggressively in the course of various remarks expressed their determination victoriously to accomplish this important educational task.

Several pledges were adopted in this connection and the most important ones included the following: to develop an extensive propaganda effort aimed at making sure that all workers will be familiar with the ways and possible alternatives through which they can obtain a ninth-grade education; in each center, to analyze the possibility of opening classrooms, including review sessions; to update the school attendance census for 1979 and to involve all labor union leaders, who do not have a ninth-grade education, in this study effort.

Lt Col David Publio Morales, as well as the leaders of the SNTC-FAR in that sector, Hector Suarez Lopez and Juan Arrieta Lopez, also occupied seats at the head table.

Graduation

A large group of militants from the party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists], from the Military Personnel Construction and Billetting Units, recently completed studies corresponding to the basic and middle levels of the party education system.

During the simple graduation ceremonies for the third middle course, Capt Juan Carlos Garcia Rodriguez told the graduates: "The course you have just completed will enable you to do much more efficient work in the struggle against the manifestations of bourgeois ideology and in the effort to educate our militants and the masses as a whole, in addition to doing more efficient organizational and practical work."

The number of comrades who will register for the courses scheduled to start in September will constitute an overfulfillment of the target in accordance with the pledges made by the militants for the second year of the 1981-1985 5-year term.

WORK OF ANTIAIR DEFENSE TROOPS DESCRIBED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 19 Jul 81 pp 28-29

[Article by Domingo Orta Vera: "Sleepless Shilka Operators"]

[Text] "It doesn't matter if the enemy gets up early because the antiair defense forces do not sleep." This paraphrased expression has become a symbol. It goes further than that laconic aphorism and shows its full magnitude when it is spoken as the motto of the guardians of the national sky.

Actually this sky, this land and this flag will never be unguarded. The men who have been assigned the noble mission of preventing an air attack from the enemy and combatting one if it occurs are untiring in their duty. They prefer to sacrifice their hours of rest to guarantee the sleep of all the people.

The 57-mm guns, the "four mouths," the Shilkas and the entire arsenal of the Anti-air Defense Forces of the Land Troops always watch the horizon.

Greeting to Each New Dawn

The members of a Shilka battery greet the new day well before the last rooster crows or the dew on the camouflage leaves disappears.

Their morning greeting goes out on the radar waves that meet the rising sun and embrace it. They return quickly to their starting point when there is an intruder, bringing the necessary calculations to destroy it. The rest is the work of the automatic systems and trained personnel willing to give their all so that our sky is not violated.

The automatic accompaniment of the target until it enters the firing zone can be ordered. Then the four guns, in unison and with an incredible speed, will spit out their hatred of the invader.

Giving orders in such cases when time is marked in seconds and supersonic speeds do not even permit "blinking" is a great responsibility. That is the reason the Antiair Defense Force must have great mastery of themselves and quick reactions.

As the brain of the battery, a young officer at the command post receives telephonic signals, communicates with the installations and starts the rest of the

corps operating. He is the chief. His name is Omar Triana and his creed is to be demanding and make the best use of the technology and personnel.

Our conversation verified the tactical ability of this graduate of the Com Camilo Cienfuegos FAR Artillery School. We "initiated combat" with several questions in the same direction. The answer came quickly.

"I maintain three firing stations and have one guard to keep an enemy maneuver from surprising us from behind."

We "withdrew" in time, convinced that military cunning is as important in a chief as basic knowledge.

Without Wasting a Minute

Today is a clear, sunny day, typical of our Cuba. In a sky devoid of clouds, there is a faint sound of airplanes maneuvering. They are ours. It is necessary to use this opportunity to train the operators in search and location of targets!

This is a practical and appropriate solution to approximate training conditions to combat conditions.

While one installation remains on combat guard, the remaining equipment stays camouflaged. There is practice for time standards, classes in the material and firing part and the political training program.

At any given moment, it is possible to hear the sound of a turbine being connected, the "clack" of the gun barrels taking combat position and see the turret turn quickly and the "four mouths" go up and down.

It is also possible to hear orders to uncover the installation and take combat positions. Muscles are mobilized, movements are coordinated and the equipment is in hand.

Throbbing Memory of Bay of Pigs

When talking of synchronization and good work, the No. 4 team must be mentioned.

Felix, Carlos, Tomas, Alberto and their beloved machine are ready to show what they have learned, not only for the camera but for any aggressor.

Their young and determined faces on which the hair on their upper lip is barely visible make us involuntarily go back 20 years.

Only a few weeks ago, the antiair forces celebrated the 20th anniversary of their specialty, created in the midst of the Bay of Pigs fighting. The unanimous response to a question on this topic is no accident. "We are proud of our appointment; we will try to be faithful continuers of the traditions of the founders of this branch."

Sgt Third Class Carlos Borreli Rivero told us: "I have assimilated the technology well and I feel confident with it." This brings a nod of approval from 2nd Lt Felix

Stable Cesar, installation chief. Referring to Sgt Third Class Tomas Perez Ulloa, the youngest on the team, Felix exclaimed:

"He is a good soldier and an example of how much can be done in a little time."

PFC Alberto Beltran Varona, mechanical driver and member of the UJC [Union of Young Communists], referred to the support the youth organization gave to the tasks of the small unit.

"Life in our base committee thrives under field conditions. This is necessary. We will offer the greatest support possible to the camouflage and combat guard tasks. In this way, mobilization of soldiers to fulfill the assigned mission is achieved."

Our stay with the guardians of the sky came to an end. The refrain of a children's song came to mind:

"Let the sun always shine.

"I want there always to be sun

"And also sky."

There will be sky over our fatherland, a clean sky devoid of enemies, because the Antiair Defense Forces do not sleep.

7717

CSO: 3010/1806

MANEUVERS OF COMMUNICATIONS TROOPS SUCCESSFUL

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 2 Aug 81 pp 34-37

[Article by Pablo Noa: "Signal 'Proton'"]

[Text] Sea, Sun, QSA, over.

Sun, Sea, QSA 5, receive radiosignal "Proton," over.

Sea, Sun, received radiosignal "Proton," over.

A few minutes later, the complete unit formed a column to quickly reach the point of departure. This was the beginning of the special tactical maneuvers to end the instruction period.

The maneuvers of the communications troops have specific characteristics based on the duties that these troops carry out in combat actions.

"When there is a march and when engaging in combat in the case of encounter, the communications troops must guarantee transmission to the superior chiefs. They must also obtain timely information about the combat security and the existing situation.

"The assignment of missions to small vanguard units and the firm and uninterrupted command of combat actions are two main things that communications must ensure."

Maj Jesus Tabares Hernandez explained this to us. He has been in this specialty for several years and studies constantly "because I always have something new to learn."

This maneuver ended the study meeting of a large group of reservists in this communications unit of the Western Army.

While he drove his vehicle to the assigned area, reservist Alberto Borrego told us: "It becomes something like a final exam in which it is necessary to demonstrate the theoretical and practical knowledge received in the classes they gave us."

"The attitude of the mobilized reservist comrades has been very good," added Major Tabares. He immediately pointed out that, during the study meeting, work relations

between reservists and permanent members of the unit were strengthened as was coordination leading to improvements in different aspects of the unit.

We Are in the Field

The order to deploy the equipment and establish radio and wire communications came as the entire unit settled in. For many, this is the decisive moment in the maneuvers.

"If skill and ability are not used in the deployment of the stations and other equipment, the correct fulfillment of the stipulated jobs and norms will be endangered."

Sgt Third Class Rodolfo Landin Banzo stated this while moving carefully from one side to another with the rest of the crew. Then they reported that they were ready.

Sergeant Third Class Landin, a 21-year-old man from Havana, stated that he greatly appreciated communications, particularly because of the work it was doing.

He indicated: "I have been in communications units since 1976 when I entered the FAR. In that time, I have not only been an equipment operator but I have held positions as station and platoon chief. Nevertheless, although these have been stimulating factors for me, there have been other moments that are unforgettable. I am referring to when I was elected a member of the UJC, an organization in which I have held leadership positions, and the times I have been named vanguard in socialist emulations. This has happened three times at the army level and once in the FAR. Now I hope to do it again. They already chose me in the first period."

To a question about his stay in the FAR, Sergeant Third Class Landin explained his satisfaction in the knowledge attained and "the positive effect on general formation and the military training of Cuban youths."

After Deployment

After all the communications were established, systematic work with security, under difficult conditions with the direct influence of "enemy forces" and the indiscriminate use of mass extermination weapons and aviation, among others, began.

There is a lot of activity at the command post. Maps and the necessary documents to undertake the leadership tasks that might come up are on the tables.

Orders, communiques, reports and every type of communication arrive by telephone or radio. Here we talked with Capt Alfredo Estanque and Capt Pedro Ramon Vargas.

Captain Estanque said: "Without question, the maneuvers are the best way to test the real training of the troops and their ability to carry out their assigned combat missions."

He continued: "The soldiers are taught and trained to deploy and withdraw the radio and wire communications equipment. It is coordinated by the chiefs of the small units under conditions similar to real combat."

Almost without completing the idea, Captain Estanque returned to the work table because of a communique just received.

Captain Vargas, secretary general of the base organization of the party, stayed with us. He spoke to us about the preparatory activity and the plans for measures drawn up by the party and the UJC to offer all their support to the command tasks and make the maneuver successful.

"We have done many activities: for example, talks with the personnel explaining security measures, radio discipline, rules for the march and the emulation. This was done before starting. During the alert, in the column and until reaching the place for equipment deployment, oral and written propaganda work intensified, aimed at improving the quick establishment of communications, rapid deployment and withdrawal and increased radio discipline.

"The plan for political support for the field activities includes the selection of distinguished crews and individual soldiers after the maneuver and, of course, the immediate work of cleaning, maintenance and preservation of the equipment used," Captain Vargas concluded.

End Approaches

During the combat actions, the mastery of the radiotelephonic and radiotelegraphic operators, using teletype as well as radio connections and lines, was demonstrated.

The maneuver also offered the opportunity to test the preparation and possibilities of field repair groups.

Another outstanding aspect was the participation of a group of cadets from the Military Technical Institute who practice command in this unit as squad chiefs and chiefs of radio and wire stations.

One of them, Juan Rosales Villarreal, studies the specialty of engineering for radiocommunications command. He told us: "The tie between theoretical work and practical work offers the opportunity to expand knowledge and look at what we learned in the classrooms from another angle."

Cadet Rosales ended: "We felt very good about the maneuver. The comrades in the unit offered valuable support that will lead to our better exploitation of their experiences."

During the march and in the development of combat actions, mobile communications equipment was used. During the march, the liaisons carried the orders for the small units that advanced in the main column. In the hills, liaisons were made on foot.

It was done through BTR armored transporters during defense actions and, occasionally, with liaisons.

The integral use of the communications equipment guaranteed uninterrupted command of the unit that was defending itself, greatly contributing to the success achieved in the fulfillment of the assigned missions.

End

The maneuver ended satisfactorily to the joy of the members of the unit.

Before we left, we learned that the joy and enthusiasm had a double reason. The unit had thus fulfilled part of its commitment in salute to the 25th anniversary of the FAR. At this time, they are dedicating it to the next celebration of the attack on the Moncada barracks.

Therefore, it was not strange to hear Major Hernandez, Captain Vargas, Captain Estanque, Sergeant Third Class Landin, reservist Borrego and any officer, sergeant, soldier and reservist that we met on the field repeat that phrase which is the motto of this unit: "We will always communicate; we will always fulfill!"

7717

CSO: 3010/1806

GEN CASAS REGUEIRO PRESIDES OVER MILITARY SCHOOL GRADUATION

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 26 Jul 81 p 56

[Text] Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, alternate member Party Political Bureau, and first deputy of the FAR minister, presided over the graduation ceremony for a large group of officers belonging to various military specialties who completed their studies at the "General Maximo Gomez" FAR Academy.

After reading the order from the FAR minister, in which he congratulates the graduates and pays tribute to the work done by the instructors and command personnel, the diplomas and medals were awarded to the most outstanding students. They are: Lt Col Alfredo Lopez (Command school), Capt Luis Borge Delgado (Command School), Maj Jose Vazquez (School of Directed Studies), and Capt Amado Moya Enrique (School of AA Defense).

Next, Capt Luis Borge Delgado spoke for the graduates.

He mentioned the effort and devotion involved in accomplishing the assigned task in the best possible fashion in keeping with the first and second congresses of the Communist Party of Cuba regarding advanced training for officers and cadres of the FAR.

"We accomplished that task and we are ready to accomplish any other tasks which our party and government may assign to us," said Captain Borge.

He stressed the role of the instructors and the support personnel who, through their self-sacrificing and patient work, contributed to the great success achieved in this course.

He concluded his remarks by expressing the readiness of each and every member to apply the knowledge acquired during the activities that will guarantee the elevation of the combat and political training level of the troops as well as care and maintenance of equipment and weapons and regarding everything else that has to do with unit activities.

The graduation ceremony summation was presented by Brig Gen Armando Choy Rodriguez who stressed the high theoretical and practical training level achieved during the course and the fact that the four best students received the reward of having their names shown on the Honor Plaque of this military training center.

"Founded 17 years ago, the Academy has long experience in training officers for our FAR," the speaker said later on and he added that "its large and highly professional body of instructors is capable of training officers and command cadres in accordance with the multilateral development demanded by the FAR."

He briefly sketched the fundamental issues which the units face at this time, including preparations to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the FAR, the work with the equipment and weapons, and constant activities aimed at improving the general training level of the troops.

He assured his audience that "your arrival in the units is being looked forward to with enthusiasm because of the contribution which that signifies."

He also paid tribute to the work done by the Soviet military specialists who, in accord with the internationalist principles of the CPSU and the legacy of the ideas of Lenin, contributed their experience and knowledge.

Brig Gen Armando Choy concluded his remarks by congratulating the graduates in the name of the Cuban Communist Party's Central Committee, the commander-in-chief, and the FAR minister.

5058

CSO:3010/1805

MTT COMMAND, POLITICAL OFFICERS GRADUATION HELD

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 2 Aug 81 p 55

[Article by Jorge Luis B.: "New Officers Graduated"]

[Text] The graduation exercises were held at the "General Antonio Maceo" Interservice School of the FAR for a women's course and another men's course of command personnel and political workers for the MTT (Militia Forces of Territorial Troops).

Comrade Nelida Barreto read the oath for the new officers which was ratified later on by all graduates, as they knelt on one knee.

During another part of the ceremony Lt Col Norge Gutierrez Utria announced the results achieved by the militia members, giving figures demonstrating the successes achieved by them.

Next, awards were presented to the comrades who were most outstanding during the period of instruction. They are: Lt Maria Estela Martinez and 2nd lts Hortensia Leon, Andres Hernandez, Belkis Calderon, Raul Miranda and Juana Cruz.

The concluding remarks were presented by Col Jose Palacios Suarez, commandant of the "General Antonio Maceo" Interservice School, who said that "we are highly satisfied and we feel rewarded by your stay at this school and by the knowledge that we have made our modest contribution to your knowledge as men and women capable of carrying out the assignments given by our party and government leaders."

"This graduation exercise," he added, "is of special significance because it is being celebrated in connection with the 28th anniversary on the attack on the Moncada barracks. You must march on toward the accomplishment of new missions with the same spirit as the youth of the Centenary, with valor, dedication, and selflessness."

In conclusion, he congratulated the graduates in the name of the school directorate, the political section, the organizations of the party and the UJC [Union of Young Communists], as well as the bureau of civilian workers of the FAR in the CEM [Military Training Center].

The head table also included Lt Col Alvaro Lopez, alternate member Party Central Committee, and other commanders and officers of the "General Antonio Maceo" Interservice School.

5058

CSO:3010/1799

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY'S MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM REVIEWED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 26 Jul 81 pp 32-33

[Article by Ramon Barreras Ferran]

[Text] To acquaint ourselves at firsthand with the military activity of a group of young people in higher education, we visited the Marta Abreu Central University's Military Training School in Villa Clara.

Thanks to the effort and dedication displayed in its daily work, the school earned the rating of "good" in the inspection of the Central Army by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [MINFAR].

The training of university students to be reserve officers is very recent. Established only 5 years ago, the movement now has a numerous student group eager to learn the fascinating secrets of military life.

The Villa Clara school has already graduated four classes and will soon graduate the fifth. The first group has completed its 6-month tour of active duty in central command units with satisfactory results.

Five specialties are taught, as well as several cycles of military subjects and a course in civil defense for all women students and men declared medically unfit. The work is assured by a solid group of FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] officers who, according to their own statements, feel very stimulated by the work they do.

Concerning the good marks awarded during MINFAR's inspection, Lt Col Rafael Sanchez Veitia, head of the school, said:

"Basically, that result was achieved thanks to correct compliance with the governing documents issued by our ministry and the efficient methodological and psychological training and high sense of responsibility among the instructors."

And he added:

"Throughout this period we have had the important support of the military command, the units stationed in the territory, the teaching authorities, and the various political and mass organizations at the Central University."

The head of the military training school emphasized that 22 classes were inspected during the checkup and that most of them earned marks of outstanding and good. Those terms refer, of course, to the training and professional level of the comrades in charge of teaching the various military subjects.

Another encouraging indicator is the fact that 96 percent of the students were rated as satisfactory during the examinations, and the quality was rated at 70 percent, meaning that that percentage of students scored more than 85 points on each test.

The head of the school continued: "Our numbers include fighters with many years of experience as fighters in the underground, at Giron Beach, and in Angola and Ethiopia, and most of them have been awarded the medals commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Attack on Moncada Barracks, the FAR, and the Victory of Giron Beach."

One aspect stressed by Lieutenant Colonel Sanchez Veitia is the preparation and didactic use of the study materials program--judged satisfactory by the Supervising Committee.

Later on he said: "Something that insures us of encouraging results is the constant methodological training of the instructors, since we have a duty to master not only the technology but also the methods for making the information available more clearly.

"In conclusion, we want to present an eloquent example of the level achieved by our students. In an exercise in pistol practice corresponding to one of the teaching levels, all the marks were either outstanding or good."

Objectively, the graduates of military training in the higher education centers are qualified to occupy important posts of responsibility during their active service.

11798

CSO: 3010/1807

TRAINING OF TERRITORIAL TROOP MILITIAS IN EASTERN REGION

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 9 Aug 81 pp 28-29

[Article by Roberto Varona Fleitas]

[Text] The leading edge of the enemy blended with the mud and the artillery-blackened earth. The moments passed under the action of the shrapnel and the passing of the regular units supported by the Territorial Troop Militias.

At the conclusion of the simulated offensive being held as a practical exercise, the fighters returned to their starting point to analyze the shortcomings detected during the hypothetical action that had been planned according to the tactical ideas of the instructor.

The instructor guided the discussion so that the participants could acquire the habits of control and the didactic elements that would help them pass on the knowledge acquired to their future subordinates.

Such activities take up most of the time devoted to training officers and sergeants at the school for commanders of small units in the Camaguey Territorial Troop Militias.

Speed and Efficiency

At the ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the proclamation of the socialist nature of the revolution, Fidel said:

"...proof of our advances in the areas of organization and experience [is to be found in] the record time in which the territorial troop militias are being organized and their cadres trained...."

The Camaguey school is an example of that. Lt Col Rene Rivera Garcia says: "It is no exaggeration to say that everything here is the result of the combined efforts of trainees and instructors."

He adds: "The original group chosen to organize it received the order only 10 days before it was scheduled to start. This happened because of the need to rapidly produce the commanders of small units for the units established at that time."

The stage preceding the start of the instruction period was a race against time for those specialists.

Every working day lasted from 16 to 18 hours and was divided among the tasks of planning, ideology, methodological improvement, and establishment of temporary quarters. Later participation by the trainees made it possible to set up the current facilities.

Comfortable dormitories, showers, sanitary facilities, dining hall, kitchen, rest areas, semirustic classrooms, and every kind of study materials program were set up without affecting instruction.

Initiatives by the trainees and the experienced work of the instructors--most of them reservists in the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces]--made it possible for the center to receive high marks from the higher command in less than 4 months.

History Lives Again

As an exceptional witness to more than a century of the forging of wills, fighting ability, and resistance in rebels of yesterday and today, the arid plain forming the FAR National Training Ground is the site where militia cadres in the eastern provinces are trained.

The red and green landscape with its sparse vegetation is rough ground for the future officers who are being trained in tactics, gunnery, engineering practices, action against mass destruction weapons and incendiary weapons, infantry, and troop duty.

As workers who have become soldiers by their own will, they daily subordinate their own interests to the sacrifice required for their training in the principles of contemporary combat.

Age does not matter when one wants to keep abreast of the circumstances imposed by imperialism's aggressive threats. That is the case with Edilberto Tobar Sanchez, who is probably the oldest of all those militia members.

During a halt in the exercise being carried out by his detachment, the agile "oldster" said: "I feel like I am starting to live when more needs to be done to strengthen the defense of the fatherland."

A party member, his 62 years do not keep him from performing as well as his younger comrades in training--one reason why the school considers him one of its most outstanding trainees.

Following Tobar's example are hundreds of men and women fighters representing a range of generations who demonstrate in unison what a people is capable of in the face of imperialist threats.

Workers who daily strengthen the country's economy with an ever-increasing production of material goods are acting with equal persistence to create a strong shield to protect their gains.

As emulators of those first units that filled the pages of history with glory in the battles of Giron Beach, the officers and sergeants graduating from the Camaguey

school return to their workplaces with the same conviction as that emerging from this statement by the commander in chief:

"Again we can repeat the words of that 16 April: let us swear to defend this cause of the humble, by the humble, and for the humble; let us swear to defend our socialist revolution to the last drop of blood!"

11798

CSO: 3010/1807

INCREASE IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN GUATEMALA NOTED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 9 Aug 81 pp 17-18

[Article by Roberto Morejon: "Romeo in Trouble"]

[Text] The increased military and political capability of the Guatemalan guerrillas is an obvious fact noted by different news media in the first 6 months of this year.

The FAR [Rebel Armed Forces], EGP [Poor People's Guerrilla Army], ORPA [Organization of Armed People] and the cell of the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party] redoubled their efforts to combine men, arms, strategy and tactics. Now the four revolutionary vanguard groups are uniting.

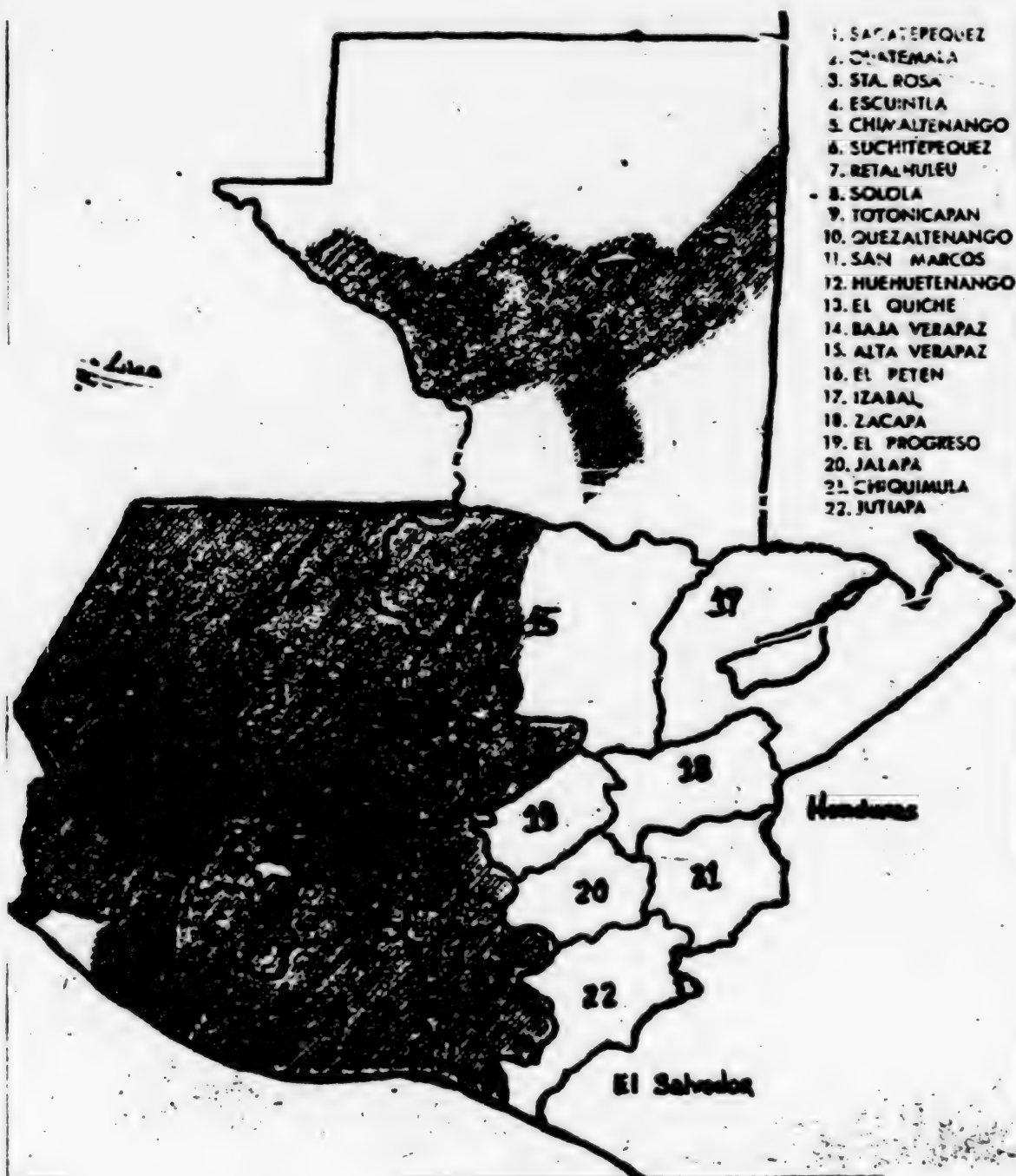
This led to an increase in armed actions and other actions since there is fighting now in 19 of the 22 departments in the country. For example, from 29 [as published] to 18 May, 662 of the enemy died. In the month of April itself, there were 92 propaganda operations, 41 executions and 21 attacks on military convoys and barracks.

The EGP created a new front--Augusto Cesar Sandino--shortly after opening a similar one in Verapaz Department called Marco Antonio Yon Sosa. With these two, it has a total of five fronts in national territory.

News like this keeps the repressive government of Romeo Lucas Garcia in check. All his military and police forces are at war after the rebels occupied cities, destroyed barracks, blew up municipal government headquarters, carried out frontal clashes, harassments and robberies, executed informers and henchmen and confiscated military equipment.

While the armed vanguard progressively increased its attacks, the mass organizations also found points of agreement and formed the FP-31 [31 January Popular Front] with the idea of channeling its affiliates' opposition to the genocidal regime. FP-31 is made up of labor, peasant and student representatives and representatives from other local sectors.

Together with the FDCR [Democratic Front Against Repression], it constitutes a representative column of the national interests of people who, in increasing number, suffer in one way or another from the outrages of the Guatemalan fascists under the command of Romeo Lucas.



National Presence of Guerrillas

The different strata of society increasingly view unification as a starting point toward superior goals. The FDCK has summoned all progressive forces and those opposed to the dictatorship to form a national political front to channel democratic aspirations.

Perhaps as a result of this polarization--and facing the fact that Guatemala seethes from the revolutionary point of view--the United States has sent several top delegations to talk to Lucas Garcia. They have instructions to determine his strength and encourage him in his extermination campaign against insurgents and others.

Since the public suspension of military aid decreed by President Jimmy Carter (because of human rights violations), Washington has had to maneuver to cover up the constant shipment of war materiel. Israel became a very effective bridge. Through it, Arava airplanes, light artillery, mortars, rocketlaunchers, grenadelaunchers, Galil rifles, communications systems, radar, transport vehicles and other equipment of Zionist or U.S. manufacture reached the tyrants.

In addition to coordinating the training of Guatemalan officers in Tel Aviv and approving the delivery of Kfir airplanes, the White House sent supplies, including trucks, by other routes. At the same time, it made it known to the puppet regime that it was necessary to improve its deteriorated external image a little.

There is pressure for it to reach an agreement with Belize and propaganda filled with praise, orchestrated by State Department spokesmen, about the March 1982 presidential elections sponsored by Romeo.

In no way can these old Yankee games be considered a demand for accounting from the Guatemalan regime. Internally, the official repressive machine and its parallel--military gangs like the ESA [Secret Anticommunist Army]--continued their implacable persecution, with U.S. consent, of all those suspected of being opponents.

The army and the police are proud of their record of about 5,000 people arrested without warrant and then murdered. If you read the capital newspaper LA NACION on any given day, you will see news like this: "Find body on San Felipe Reu," "Publicly ask for release of missing relatives," "Body found in Rio Siguacan but cannot be identified because its face was completely destroyed." The names change but the deeds do not.

At first glance, most of the victims seem to have been selected at random among the poorest people. Nevertheless, the arrests, disappearances and crimes are not random since they are committed after accusations by employers or security agents about the possible "subversive" involvement of certain citizens.

The result of this official violence which is obvious in the cities as well as in the country is that about 3,500 peasants secretly crossed to Mexico, also fleeing the overwhelming poverty in the rural area.

Some of the emigrants told about killings and burning of villages by Lucas' soldiers. One of the victims who was treated in Aztec land stated that he had been tortured for 8 days.

This accuser, named Bonifacio Rodas, saw soldiers and members of the ESA together. He said they looked drugged as they beat entire families with their hands and guns. They put plastic bags over some people's heads to suffocate them. They also twisted cord around their necks with gloves which they later burned.

As can be seen, there is nothing more antidemocratic than the fascist corps under Romeo's orders. In spite of everything, he is seriously thinking about running in the 1982 elections he has convoked.

Continuing the game, the rightist parties announced their candidates to see if the White House is going to order Lucas to run and then cooperate with him in one more fraud as occurs traditionally in Guatemala every 4 years.

Nevertheless, because of the continual guerrilla operations and the discredit of the present regime, there could be a change. Perhaps the prefabricated electoral mechanisms will guarantee the rise to power of archreactionary Mario Sandoval Alarcón, ringleader of the fascist MLN [National Liberation Movement].

Whoever is elected, it is a reality that the masses and the armed vanguard do not expect anything from these elections. As proof, the fighting methods of the guerrilla groups are being improved with their constant strikes against the genocidal forces of the dictatorship, aimed at ending the existing exploitation and repression.

7717

CSO: 3010/1801

COLOMBIA'S PRESIDENT, M-19 PROBLEM DISCUSSED

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 23 Aug 81 pp 20-21

[Article by Roberto Morejon: "Stone Face"]

[Text] At the beginning of his term, Colombian President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, a democrat to the core according to him, used less demagoguery and lied sporadically.

These ailments have become chronic in the latest executive stage. In recent months, his speeches came dangerously close to treachery and the strong anticommunism characteristic of Augusto Pinochet in spite of the differences they say are between them.

Now Turbay has unreservedly applauded an award from the National Congress to the clown Jean Claude Duvalier for "outstanding merits as a democrat." He also said that there is no less poverty or greater respect for human rights in present-day Nicaragua than in the Somoza era.

While the president assails listeners with praise for the gifts of "justice, peace and reconciliation"—inherent in his government according to him--dozens of guns spit out bullets in the fields and soldiers break down doors, imprison, torture and kill.

"All through dialogue and not action," Julio Cesar assures us. Perhaps these pretentious phrases are put in his speeches by the scribes of the armed forces under order by the top generals, the real power in Colombia.

Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, minister of defense and consummate soldier, sometimes has "democratic" fits. At those times, he recommends that his colleagues in arms and Turbay himself speak with a "soft" voice in particular situations.

The military ranks are filled with officers with Prussian educations based on the standards of their U.S. Ranger teachers, skilled advisers for everything that is "subversion."

Certainly the power cadre in Colombia increasingly resembles the one in Uruguay where a civilian governs "in jest" while the military go out and do as they please. Here and there the prescriptions are classic: repression, anticommunism, absolutely no union protests, state of siege, economic depression, etc.

Admiration

A little while ago, Thomas Enders, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, visited Bogota. He brought precise orders to congratulate the president for playing the White House's game of regional politics so well, especially through his anti-Cuban stands.

Washington assigns an important role to Colombia in its projections toward Central America and the Caribbean. The Turbay regime is willing to go along with the interventionist attitude of the Republican administration. For that reason, it called a special conference of its ambassadors in the area to instruct them that it was more plausible to penetrate the different neighbors by offering "aid for development."

Carlos Lemos Simmonds, foreign minister for some months, will tour Guadaloupe, Dominica, Guyana, Curacao, Santa Lucia and Barbados. He is interested in exhibiting the model of his country as an appropriate standard for the realities of these islands. The good observer will note the exclusion of Grenada from that list.

It is an attempt to make the idea of the so-called Mini-Marshall Plan--sponsored by the United States and questioned by other nations--viable. It is designed to distribute a few crumbs under the indispensable condition of adhering to the points of view formulated by Washington. Colombia can offer little to its neighbors by itself since it must preserve its resources for its internal problems. That leads to the suspicion that the emissary carries foreign offers.

Bogota approves of the aggressive U.S. policy toward the Sandinist revolution and, especially, the Senate approval of the Saccio-Vazquez Carrizosa Treaty which grants Colombia jurisdiction over the Roncador, Serrana and Quitasueno islets disputed with Nicaragua.

Open Road to Coercion

The reactionary positions of Mr Turbay and his powerful uniformed "advisers" have a notable effect on Colombian foreign policy and internal policy.

Instability, tension and violence are intrinsic factors of the official activity as demonstrated by the frequent roundups in search of guerrillas and their co-operators or, simply, union leaders or critics of the authorities.

In spite of the touted representative democracy, raids and mass arrests are increasing in this coffee country. Released prisoners have stated that they suffered physical and mental mistreatment, according to the Standing Human Rights Committee. Artists, public figures, officials and the people are victims of the antiguerrilla hysteria.

The armed forces and the cabinet have just rejected offers from the M-19 movement to find a solution to the serious problems. The organization proposed the end of the state of siege--which has existed in different forms for 30 years--repeal of the security statute and coordination of a dialogue to solve the institutional crisis.

Days later, the insurgents and other forces opposed an amnesty promulgated by the president and the generals which they considered limited and demeaning. Turbay himself recognized the failure of the demagogic measure when he said: "We raised a white flag of peace without success."

Nevertheless, the government intention was clear. It tried to divide the armed opposition through promises that would never be kept while it conditioned real application of the law through dozens of tricks.

If that trap had been successful, the army would have struck the support bases of the different armed groups. The regime improved its war arsenal for this even though it resorted to pretexts as always.

Dozens of revolutionary soldiers wait for their trials while they are held under intolerable conditions in jails like La Picota, a kingdom of rats and diseases. There they view with apprehension the arrest of several of their defense lawyers, suddenly accused of being "contacts" for the armed detachments. This occurs in the country of "democracy."

Outside La Picota, the social situation is no less urgent. There is no attention from the brand-new liberal or conservative ministers; they are all the same.

Alms and Robberies

The streets in the capital and in other cities are filled with beggars, many of them living in "pirate" areas--that is, constructed from scraps and without any sanitary facilities. The qualitative housing shortage affects 10,478,013 residents.

Robberies, rapes, murders and attacks explode in the populous Bogota business district of Chapinero and in the more aristocratic districts in the north like the exclusive El Chivo. A thief attacks or kills in order to steal an expensive watch or merely a pen.

Attractive young girls take the place of male criminals. They stop vehicles, initiate intimate conversations with the drivers and then offer them "doctored" gum in order to rob their victims of every object of value.

These crimes have increased in spite of the fact that it is difficult to get into the drug business. Although it is true that Colombia is the top world producer, the trade already has its connections with U.S. markets. The house is full.

The drug money does not help end the stagnation of the formerly flourishing textile industry nor does it fill the vacuum left by the multinational companies when they extract their fantastic profits.

Other panderers have preferred to devote themselves to the sale of children between 2 months and 3 years of age. They have sold 2,000 to foreign families which could not have children. Doctors, lawyers, notaries and immigration officials have been implicated in this.

As can be seen, corruption and crime are daily acts. While there are effective strikes or threats of strikes by the workers in different sectors, thousands of citizens seek refuge in illegality, accentuating the reigning confusion and giving the future of the nation in the hands of ultraconservative politicians a gloomy note.

Guerrilla forces with different names and tactics confront confusion in their opinion. The soldiers react hysterically to actions like the mortar attack on the presidential palace, harassment of patrols, attacks, interception of television signals, publication of rebel communiques, etc.

Spectacular counterinsurgent operations did little for the army except for increasing terror in the rural and urban areas. This is the true democracy behind Turbay's sugary speeches. In 1982, this man will complete his term. It looks like he wants a monument made by then to his stone face which is capable of any type of expression depending on the diatribe.

7717
CSO: 3010/1801

RISQUET ADDRESSES COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS MEETING

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 22 Jul 81 p 2

[Speech by Jorge Risquet, member of the Party Politburo, at the closing ceremony of the National Plenum on the Quality of Communication Services, on the occasion of Communications Workers Day, at the Luis A. Turcios Lima Theater of the Communications Ministry, on 16 July 1981, Year of the Twentieth Anniversary of Giron]

[Text] Today we celebrate Communications Workers Day.

All work is important; all jobs together make up the values of daily life and determine our society's standard of living.

You make sure communication takes place.

Can you imagine contemporary life without mail and telegraph services, without telephone communication among neighbors in a single city, or between different cities and towns, without telephone links with other cities in the world?

Without rapid, automatic, instantaneous communication, could the pace and efficiency of our production, and the functioning of transportation, be maintained?

Could modern man lead a full life without the news, the musical, theatrical or sports programs we get from the radio, or without enriching that message with the images of television?

How much would our intellectual horizons shrink if we did not have the written press each morning, with its hard information about local, national and world events?

More than 25,000 Cuban workers, with their modest daily efforts, ensure that our people enjoy these services, which have become indispensable in civilized life today.

On this day, on behalf of the entire nation, we express our most heartfelt congratulations and most sincere appreciation to communications workers.

This day, 16 July, was chosen to honor the workers in this important area of production because it was on this date 10 years ago that your national union was founded.

We also could have chosen 8 October, because on that day in the glorious year of 1868, a telegraph worker alerted Carlos Manuel de Cespedes that the colonialist authorities knew of the independence conspiracy, a sublime patriotic service which precipitated our first war of independence.

Nine decades later, the brave revolutionary members of the Santiago de Cuba Telephone Exchange, repeating many times the memorable feat of the Bayamo telegraph worker, intercepted the murderous orders of the henchmen of tyranny and alerted Frank Pais of danger.

Like the comrades in the mail, telegraph and telephone services, those who worked at radio stations also gained inspiration from those who operated Radio Rebelde during the last liberation war. From the Sierra Maestra, that radio broadcast kept people informed of the progress of the Revolution, and transmitted Fidel's directives.

In the Sierra, on the Second and Third Fronts with Raul and Almeida, and in Escambray and Yaguajay with Che and Camilo, the Revolutionary network filled the airwaves each night; millions of Cubans heard the voice of combat, and dozens, or perhaps hundreds of patriots made that broadcast possible.

Those who are responsible for the distribution of the Revolutionary press always remember the beautiful example set by the people who from the jungle of redemption distributed CUBANO LIBRE among the rebel troops; the people who defied the repression of Machado to bring LUCHA DE CLASES and EL TRABAJADOR to the factories; and the people who braved Bautistan terrorism to distribute tens of thousands of copies of underground publications such as CARTA SEMANAL, REVOLUTION and MELLA, sounding the call to arms against the tyrant and his Yankee masters.

Our revolutionary history is replete with the heroic examples of revolutionary messengers, who went behind enemy lines to bring letters bearing battle orders, combat reports and the laws of the Republic at Arms.

We will never forget the moving story of Lydia and Clodomira, the heroic messengers of the Rebel Army who remained true to the cause of the Revolution through torture and death.

Today, at this time, these communication services are rendered during peacetime, which facilitates the efforts of the workers. But the work may have to be done under wartime conditions, in a war imposed on our people by the imperialist invader. At that time, the glorious tradition of communications workers will be rejuvenated, and we will see the truth in the slogan so well known to all workers in this sector: "In war as well as peace, we will maintain communications."

Frank Discussions

But what brings us here today is our concern for making daily improvements in the quality of communications services in our country.

This National Plenum that is drawing to a close marks the culmination of a vast and deep process of discussion, in which all workers of the Communications Ministry have participated.

Of the 25,000 people who work for the ministry, 20,000 have attended the assemblies.

Communication services are provided 24 hours a day, so it is never possible to have everyone present at the assemblies; but those who have to work at the time of the assembly participate through their comrades, and learn from them the results of the discussion.

There were 591 local assemblies, and at them 2,601 agreements were adopted and sent on. Of course, there was much overlapping in those agreements.

It is interesting to note that 780 of those agreements deal with eliminating deficiencies at the lowest level, and that the solution to these problems lies in the local workers themselves. These agreements are designed to improve organization and to strengthen efforts, dedication, and service to users. Another 1,146 agreements are at the level of territorial and national enterprises; and the remaining 675 agreements are matters which the Ministry must deal with.

The discussion in the committees and at the plenary sessions was frank, strong, demanding and wide-ranging.

Without a doubt there are many problems of an objective nature, revolving around the shortage of material resources. Given the limitations of our economy, these problems cannot be solved overnight, but must be overcome gradually. But many other difficulties pointed out at the assemblies--and at this Plenum--do have a solution, and it depends on the will of men. Not a few problems have been brought up that have not been resolved due to a lack of proper planning, a lack of action, management, control or discipline.

The unfortunate deterioration of most of Havana's communication centers was stressed repeatedly. There are some 150 centers, postal and telegraph offices, telephone offices, workshops, warehouses and other offices.

It is obvious that we must take immediate steps to reinforce the maintenance brigade and to give it more skilled manpower, equipment and resources so that it may undertake to repair those centers. An order of priority must be established according to the physical state of the centers. One undeniable prerequisite is that the brigade and the resources must be used for maintenance, not for building new centers; they are for maintaining and repairing the old facilities to prevent those dilapidated places from coming down around our ears.

The weaknesses of the Administration of the Integral Communications Enterprise in the capital have been pointed out. Various workers and union leaders gave equal attention to the damaged reputation of the enterprise's board of directors.

And this is an enterprise that has no fewer than 6,000 workers. There is an urgent need to strengthen the enterprise's executive levels.

These assemblies have served to revitalize the workers' desire to strive for improved quality in communications services. The outcome can already be felt. It has also spurred more dynamic leadership on the part of the management personnel of the territorial and national enterprises, as well as the ministry itself.

This series of agreements forms a magnificent working plan. Some agreements call for immediate action, others for short-term action, and still others for medium-term action. Many must be completed this year, others next year, and so on. . .

For our Party, for its 3,300 members who belong to 235 grassroots organizations and for the municipal and provincial organizations as well as the corresponding Central Committee Department, there is one clearly defined task: to mobilize workers and cadres to carry out the agreements, to demand that the administration take action wherever necessary and to oversee that action, and to cooperate as much as possible.

All that should translate into a significant increase in the quality of service. The people will judge the work of communications workers, of their unions, of the administration of the enterprises and of the executive personnel of the Ministry, in terms of the quality of service rendered. In this public service activity, the people themselves exercise quality control.

Promote Repair and Expansion of Post Offices, Build New Centers

How are efforts to improve service coming along?

Let us look at current indicators and their behavior over the first 5 months of 1981.

National mail: The plan calls for 70 percent of letters to be delivered within 48 hours. Last year during the same period, 68.6 percent was achieved, near the goal. Between January and May of this year, the figure dropped to 66 percent. Here we have seen losses instead of gains.

Another goal for this kind of correspondence is for 100 percent of letters to be delivered within 96 hours. Between January and May, that figure has been 94 percent, which means that 6 percent of letters reach their destination after 96 hours, or 4 days.

Telegrams: The goal is for 70 percent of telegrams to be delivered within 2 hours. Between January and May 1980 we achieved 68.6 percent. In 1981, the figure has been 67 percent. Again we have lost ground.

One hundred percent of telegrams should be delivered within 5 hours. This year that figure has been 97 percent.

These shortfalls mean that millions of letters and telegrams arrive late, with the resultant inconveniences and damages for the addressees.

It would not be fair to ignore the difficult working conditions that exist in the vast majority of postal and telegraph offices in this country.

With the triumph of the Revolution, literacy, the increased level of education and the enhanced buying power of the populace, the volume of letters and telegrams that are sent has been multiplied many times.

Last year 83 million letters and 15 million telegrams were sent.

The increased volume of correspondence has not been backed up materially with the expansion of existing facilities or the construction of new ones, or with adequate equipment including automation.

In addition, post offices now provide many new services that were not available before, such as:

1. Social Security payments
2. Social Assistance payments
3. Urban Reform collections
4. Telephone Service collections
5. Gas service collections
6. Day Care collections
7. Personal Identification fines
8. Sale of Postal Identification Coupons
9. Customs collections
10. State Agency Direct Mail Pouch Service
11. Special Mothers Day Message Service
12. Sale of franked envelopes
13. Bank documents service

Imagine: Thirteen new activities, in addition to the increased volume of letters, telegrams and money orders, often in facilities that are 30 or 40 years old, which have deteriorated due to lack of maintenance.

During the present 5-year period we must make a serious effort to promote the repair and expansion of post offices, and to build new centers. And, of course, we must carry out the constructive maintenance of all centers.

The local Peoples Government agencies must pay more attention to this need, including post offices in their annual plans for construction and maintenance. They must not forget this service when they plan new communities.

For its part, the Ministry is stepping up the production of auxiliary units for postal operations. Even more encouraging is the fact that the school for postal workers and mid-level technicians has already been founded. It will lay the groundwork for graduating the first postal engineers in our country.

Despite the real difficulties that we have pointed out, at the assemblies a combative spirit was noted among the postal and telegraph workers; agreements were made which will yield benefits in terms of increased service. These agreements deal with quality control, the eradication of incorrect delivery of letters, key sheets for money orders, the goal of having no correspondence left to deliver or transmit at the end of the day, proper review of money orders before turning them over to the operator, updating of guides and directories, and finally carrying out tasks with precision, organization, enthusiasm and punctuality.

As for the telephone offices, that service was the subject of much debate at the Provincial Plenums and this very Plenum. The result was 888 agreements regarding this matter. Twelve different aspects of this complex field were analyzed:

The Automatic Switching Center (CCA), the installation and maintenance of switchboards, the Maintenance and Transmission Center (CMT), teleprinters, the maintenance and construction of networks, telephone traffic, energy activities, the telex and TGX [expansion unknown] plant, telephone and test desk maintenance, telephone workshops and cable workshops. In each of these fields agreements were made relating to the lower levels, the enterprise levels and the national levels.

Many of these agreements, especially the national ones, will require considerable time to be implemented, because most revolve around improving and expanding installations that come from capitalist countries, which will require that the country dip into its foreign currency reserves.

This situation is particularly evident in Havana, which has 63 percent of all the facilities in the country, and has the highest telephone density, with 11.1 telephones per 100 inhabitants. Its telephone lines have been in use for an average of 30 years, and 83 percent date back to the capitalist period.

Some of the agreements will take the entire 5-year period to be fully implemented.

Despite this objective situation, thanks to the effort of telephone workers, the actions of the union and the work of the administration, three of the four basic quality parameters have been exceeded.

Answering 00 signals within 10 seconds: The plan calls for 95 percent; the actual figure is 92.1 percent. Our goal still eludes us.

With such a huge volume of calls, and considering the above-mentioned technical difficulties, there is no doubt that telephone workers have done an admirable job which deserves our recognition.

Calls made or notified in less than 10 minutes: Plan, 77 percent; actual, 79 percent.

Average delay in repairing interruptions of automatic service: Plan, 11 hours; actual, 6.4 hours.

Average number of automatic telephones in service: Plan, 99.5 percent; actual, 99.7 percent.

Look at this figure: In 1980, 63 million long distance phone calls were made!

At the plenums, those in attendance expressed the need to overcome problems with public telephones (coin collectors), especially those located near hospitals, airports and isolated neighborhoods where there is no extensive phone network, so that the expected service can be provided. It is naturally annoying to have interruptions in service for days at a time on phones that must be shared by the local populace.

Another issue brought out by workers at the assemblies is the need to eliminate telephone billing errors. Although many mistakes have been taken care of, there are still cases in which long distance calls are charged to people who did not

make them, and they must go personally to customer service offices to have the necessary corrections and adjustments made.

Although similar problems were noted in the rest of the country, of course they are less complex than those in Havana. In the past almost all telephone development took place in Havana, since the Cuban Telephone Company was more interested in investing in the capital, to the detriment of the rest of the country.

In the past 20 years, investment, modernization and expansion have focused primarily on the interior provinces, with technical assistance from the German Democratic Republic. During this 5-year period, 60,000 GDR lines will be installed to continue expanding service. This has meant an extraordinary surge in direct dialing from municipalities to the provincial capitals, and to Havana.

Once the coaxial cable project is completed, direct dialing will be possible from Havana to all areas covered by the installation project, including the capitals of all the provinces. The coaxial cable will make possible a much more reliable system for television transmission, national radio networks, data transmitting systems and national direct dialing. I will go into further detail about this aspect later on.

The common points brought up at the assemblies, aside from the need to make general environmental improvements, included increased productivity, strict compliance with the maintenance program, and the elimination of all absenteeism, especially in the traffic rooms, where absenteeism has a considerable impact in reducing the number of calls made because demand cannot be met if operators' posts are not covered.

As Guelmes stated, we must eradicate the practice of cannibalizing new technology. That remedial method provides an apparent solution to the immediate problem, but it conspires against the future in that it bankrupts technology.

In the Radio Communications Branch there were also many agreements, more than 250, covering all levels. They ranged from national radio and television activities to international services.

We have seen that the results of the two basic indicators in this area, the reliability of national radio networks and that of national television networks, have not reached their respective goals of 98 percent and 99 percent, although they have come close. These figures are high, but what else are we to expect if the country has made sizable investments in this field in recent years?

New Microwave Network

We now have a new microwave network capable of sending radio and television signals from one end of the country to the other with efficiency and quality. Numerous radio and television transmitters have been installed, using the latest technology, both to replace old equipment and to expand service to new areas. Thus, the message of the Revolution can reach the entire nation through the most popular of our mass media.

Why not expect the feat of the Soviet-Cuban space flight to be broadcast with high fidelity from outer space to the most remote corner of Cuba?

This was ensured, and well it should be, by the communications workers and the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT) workers. That brilliant accomplishment must become a daily feat, maintaining the same levels of reliability in all transmissions, without exception.

It is true that these indicators have been affected by certain external factors, such as occasional problems with electrical fluid and some deficiencies stemming from radio or television studies. These problems have been on the decline, but there are still some difficulties at the Ministry of Communications which were discussed at the plenums. The result was agreements that the Ministry, the enterprises and the workers in this sector must implement.

The maintenance plans have not been fulfilled 100 percent; supplies are not as efficiently organized as one might hope; and in many provinces there are still no supervision and control centers to monitor all signals that are transmitted, or existing centers do not function properly, so that the percentage of modulation or the percentage of harmonic components in a given transmission can be determined.

In terms of the distribution of the written press, the goal of delivering 85 percent of issues before 1300 hours has been exceeded during the first 5 months of 1981. The actual figure was 87.5 percent. There was evident progress over the same period of 1980, when only 75.9 percent was achieved.

During the period in question, 154 million copies were sold, 10 million more than during January-May 1980. In addition, 2.1 million copies remained unsold, 700,000 less than during the same period of 1980.

Although the quality parameter was achieved and the percentage of unsold issues is minimal, there are still problems getting the press to sugar mills, rural areas and areas where access is difficult, such that external means must be used, and a more efficient and innovative system must be developed.

For example, at the units of the Peoples Government commercial network in many rural areas, a given number of newspapers are sent on an advance paid subscription basis. However, the peasant or farmworker who goes to the units to make purchases never receives his copy, and the newspapers remain in storage.

The existing number of kiosks must be increased, and efforts must be made at the appropriate levels to ensure adequate maintenance. Some kiosks have visibly deteriorated.

Concerning publications in general, national and foreign magazines, demand and existing reading habits must be taken into consideration to ensure better distribution.

There are problems with transportation, because maintenance and repairs are not carried out with the necessary quality and frequency. Although there is almost always a shortage of parts, there is also negligence in caring for the equipment on the part of its users. Some drivers, however, perform their work meritoriously.

All these deficiencies must be overcome; the high standards imposed by our Party leadership must be kept up; the workers' enthusiastic compliance with the quality indicators must be even more rigorous; and the enterprises and the executives of the Ministry must increase their vigilance to make sure established procedures are followed, while they impart clear guidance at all times and take the necessary administrative actions.

Only in this manner will we be able to guarantee the efficient utilization of the new technology to be installed during this 5-year period, such as the microwave link for television in the Province of Granma, more than 60 transmitters for medium-wave radio, the expansion of international services and the capacity of the maritime mobile system, and others. Thus, our people will benefit from these services and will gain true satisfaction from them.

Pinar del Rio-Guantanamo Coaxial Cable

I would like to refer briefly to the development of the greatest investment undertaken by the Ministry of Communications, since it represents an important milestone in this field. It will improve the quality of services, mainly in long distance communications. I am referring to the installation of the coaxial cable.

This project is being carried out in cooperation with our Soviet brothers, and involves the installation of more than 1,700 kilometers of cable from one end of the island to the other, as well as the corresponding ancillary equipment and numerous civil construction projects. To date 570 kilometers of cable have been put in, including 60 communications channels with the city of Matanzas.

The work the Cuban and Soviet laborers and technicians must perform is arduous; throughout the island, they labor under the burning sun, or in the rain, on soft ground or in hard rock that must be destroyed with dynamite. They are advancing step by step, rock by rock, crossing mountains and rivers. They know that as a result of their efforts our people will be able to communicate better, which means that they will be able to manage the economy better, give necessary orders faster and more reliably, or receive required information. The country will be better prepared for emergencies.

This investment will undoubtedly have a repercussion on the activities of communications workers, and for this reason it is also essential that this work be carried out with the highest quality standards.

All the technical standards must be met; linkages must be made with extreme care; the cable must not be allowed to get wet; the cable must be laid at the required depth; and measures must be taken to guard against future interruptions as much as possible. Similar care must be taken with the civil construction projects and the assembly of technical equipment. If we observe all the established methods, we will be able to create the conditions for the optimum quality that our people deserve.

The first stage of the coaxial cable is scheduled to be completed by the end of the 5-year period.

Our Party leadership has given orders for the project to proceed as fast as the availability of external supplies permits.

We assert here today that we should and can finish the first stage of the Pinar del Rio-Guantanamo coaxial cable by 1983.

For this purpose we urge communications and construction workers to make every effort to achieve this objective.

Similarly, the Ministries of Communications and Construction should adopt all necessary measures to provide the projects with the supplies, equipment and manpower needed to carry out this schedule.

Our words would be incomplete if we did not mention the economic efficiency indicators.

Let us look at production, productivity, cost per peso, and earnings.

Value of Goods Production: As of 30 May 1981, 74,283,000, for a projected yearly total of 178 million, 2 million more than the plan and 16 million more than the actual 1980 figure.

Cost per Peso: The figure is 0.605 less than the 1981 plan, which is 0.643, and less than the actual 1980 figure of 0.608.

Productivity: As of 30 May, \$3,060 per worker, for a projected total of \$7,343 for the year. The 1981 plan calls for \$7,036, and the actual 1980 figure was \$6,800.

Calculated Earnings: The 1981 plan calls for \$62,237,000, and as of 30 May the total was \$23,124,000. The actual figure for 1980 was \$56,681,000.

As you can see, the Ministry's economic efforts are going well, and congratulations are in order for everyone.

Comrades: Socialist Emulation should play a more important role in the labor efforts of communications workers. The union is taking steps in that direction, but the results have been insufficient.

One aspect that necessarily has an impact on the quality of service is the general training and requalification of all workers in their respective positions, without forgetting the battle for the ninth grade, which will make our working class one of the most skilled in all of Latin America.

We must also raise productivity through better organizational efforts.

We would like to mention the transportation problem again, since it is so important.

It is undeniable that exterior plant repairs, the distribution of mail, the press and all activities in general require transportation support to respond adequately to all the requirements of service.

In the past 5-year period, some transportation was assigned to the Ministry, although it was not enough. Given that this is the Achilles heel of the Ministry's service, we must redouble our care and attention to the planned maintenance, and the adequate and strict use of resources in service tasks. We must also step up efforts to improve quality in repairs.

Before closing, we would like to emphasize and publicly recognize the merits of our comrades in this Ministry who have attained the position of National Vanguard: Comrades Argelio Valdes, Domingo Gonzalez and Santiago Rivero.

We would also like to cite Comrade Constantino Miguez for having been selected as the best innovator.

Also deserving of mention and recognition are the National Vanguard collectives, the Technical Projects Unit of Havana Province.

The Claudio Arguelles cable and line maintenance unit of Havana and the Placetas Telephone Center.

We would like to extend to these comrades and national collectives a warm greeting and a brotherly embrace.

We should also emphasize the massive incorporation of men and women of this Ministry into the Territorial Troop Militias, and the economic contribution made for their provisions.

Long live the communications workers!

Long live the Communist Party of Cuba!

Long live our Commander in Chief, Fidel!

Fatherland or Death, We Shall Win!

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CAMACHO SPEAKS ON TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY ANNIVERSARY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 4 Aug 81 p 2

[31 July speech by Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the party in Havana City, on the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Ministry of Transport]

[Text] The following speech was delivered by Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo and first secretary of the party in Havana City, on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of Transport, held at the Lazaro Pena Theater of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions], on 31 July 1981, "Year of the 20th Anniversary of the Bay of Pigs."

Fellow comrades at the speakers table, comrades:

Today we are commemorating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of Transport.

When we recall the historic circumstances under which this organization was created, the events that took place in those days and the causes leading to them, we cannot fail to feel satisfied over the steady progress of our revolutionary process in the past two decades, over the results achieved and the radical transformations that have taken place.

The creation of this Ministry of Transport on 1 August 1961 fits into the framework of all the measures adopted by the Revolutionary Government during that decisive phase in order to carry out the Moncada Program and consolidate the power won on 1 January 1959.

Those were the early years of the Revolution, when the imperialist enemy staked its enormous resources on destroying our democratic, liberating, anti-imperialist process. In those days, a sharp class struggle was being waged in all fields, a struggle involving the very survival of the Cuban Revolution and with it, the conquests won by our people in their century of struggles.

Sabotage was carried out against our industries and plantations in order to paralyze production, affect our economy and promote popular discontent over the scarcities of basic commodities. The criminal economic blockade imposed by the

imperialists against our country was intensified in a vain attempt to starve us into submission. Counterrevolutionary bands, armed and trained by the Yankee CIA, proliferated in nearly all the provinces of the country, engaging in all kinds of villainous deeds in order to sow terror and insecurity, killing teachers, literacy teachers and farmers. The Revolution, backed by the strength of the masses, faced the provocations and aggression of the outside enemies, their diplomatic blackmail and threats of all kinds, while within the country, we waged a bitter struggle against the national bourgeoisie, which could not accept the loss of its privileges.

In 1961, the period during which the ministry was set up, extraordinary historic events took place and important decisions were adopted that would have a decisive influence on the future march of the Cuban Revolution and its consolidation as the first socialist state in this hemisphere.

That was the year of the historic literacy campaign, when over 100,000 brigade members invaded our rural areas and cities in order to teach our workers and farmers to read and write, thereby beginning the takeoff of the Revolution's educational program. It was a period of constant mobilization of the people in order to rebuild our economy on new bases, when tens of thousands of workers were organized in the National Revolutionary Militias (MNR) in order to defend the country against imperialist aggression.

That was the year of the mercenary Bay of Pigs invasion, when our fighting people pulled off the first major military defeat of imperialism in America, the year of the proclamation of the socialist nature of the Cuban Revolution, an event whose political and social importance went beyond the borders of our nation and went down in the history of our continent as an immortal fact.

It was within that context of incessant struggle that the Ministry of Transport was set up, by Law No 960, on 1 August 1961.

It was not an isolated decision. Rather, it was one of the many measures adopted in order to consolidate the Revolutionary Government, destroy the bourgeois state apparatus, and in its place, gradually set up a new administrative structure in keeping with the changes that were occurring within society and in accordance with the people's interests. It was established at the proper time, emerging as the result of the expansion of the state transport sector, a result of the nationalizing process laid out at Moncada and the appropriation of the property of the exploiters who were opposing the revolutionary process.

With the triumph of the Revolution, there was total anarchy in the transport sector because of the infinite number of private companies and individual owners who fought among themselves in order to increase their profits. Some transport systems, such as the railroad, aviation and the buses, were under the control of mixed enterprises or foreign companies that monopolized the means they controlled in keeping with their interests.

The development achieved by some branches of transportation during the period of the pseudo republic was stagnant or frankly deteriorating, as in the case of the railroad, because of the fact that the international companies that controlled

them had lost interest in their development and modernization beginning in the 1930's, when they completed the network connecting the sugar mills with the ports from which goods were shipped abroad, and the central highway was built, leading the way to the development of overland freight transport by road.

Because of these factors, plus the fluctuations in sugar prices on the international market, these companies confined themselves to making the minimum investments in rail transport. Cuba was the first country in Latin America to have this means of transportation and the eighth in the world, an undertaking that was financed in the past century by the English and American sugar interests. Our rail system is over a century old and it was a source of work in which a strong and fighting working class developed.

Merchant Marine

At the time of the triumph of the Revolution, the Merchant Marine and coastal fleet was practically nonexistent. This country, surrounded by water on all sides, with magnificent natural ports on both coasts, a privileged geographic position for commercial navigation, dependent to a great extent on foreign trade to meet its basic needs and exports its sugar, mineral and agricultural production, had only 14 ships for international traffic, with a displacement of 58,000 tons. Coastal traffic had little significance in national traffic and the old boats had only 16,000 tons dead weight.

In addition, port activity was totally stagnant, without any development, basically devoted to exporting our sugar production in bags. Imports were almost exclusively limited to the port of Havana.

Passenger transport by bus had been developed somewhat, especially in the capital, and 47 urban and interprovincial bus companies were operating throughout the country, linking the most important cities. The equipment, all from the United States, passed into the hands of the government as a result of the nationalizations and expropriations carried out in 1960 and 1961. The imperialist blockade imposed on our country immediately created serious difficulties, halting the supply of spare parts and accessories throughout the 1960's. This created serious difficulties that could only be relieved through the action and initiative of our transport workers.

In the main, this was the picture that greeted the Revolution in its early years with respect to transport. Our officials had to make a great organizational effort in order to structure this state sector in the midst of the difficulties enumerated and outline an overall development plan that would respond to the country's needs in each of the branches of the sector.

It was not an easy task, especially if we consider the fact that those officials designated to assume the responsibility did not have the administrative experience to do so. For the most part, they were comrade soldiers from the Sierra and the plains, ready to give their all for the Revolution, with infinite faith in victory and wishing to fight for the interests of the people. They faced the difficulties together with the masses, hearing the opinions and suggestions of the workers, promoting the new values that were emphasized for the different posts and advised

by the small group of technicians who stood firm in the country and refused to yield to the offers from their old bosses, who encouraged them to betray their nation in those crucial moments.

As an organic antecedent to the creation of the Ministry of Transport, the bourgeois, proimperialist state created an institution called the National Transport Corporation in the middle of the 1950's. It was to coordinate, standardize and try to regulate the activities of the many existing private companies.

As the order creating it stated, its purpose was to try to coordinate the competitive struggle in which the different private entities and groups were engaged, in the interest of society. However, once it was set up, like all institutions of the bourgeois state, the corporation became one more instrument for the enrichment and profit of the professional politicians, one after the other, at the cost of the nation's budget.

Concessions for new lines of service, income for the registration of vehicles, fines from drivers violating traffic laws and other functions inherent in the corporation all constituted a source of personal enrichment, corruption, misappropriation and bribes between representatives of the regime and their official solicitors.

In order to have a better understanding of the differences between that bourgeois institution and the Ministry of Transport that emerged from the Revolution, it is of interest to point out the following:

On the lists of that institution were hundreds of persons with sinecures, including officials from the Batista regime, hit men, thugs, document counterfeiters, paid assassins, members of the gangster paramilitary bands and the infamous Tigres de Masferrer and many others who did not work for the organization. In addition, some 96 percent of those on the payroll were relatives of or persons receiving patronage from the Batista tyrant or his wife or ministers, senators, military men and other officials in the regime. Very few were workers truly employed by the institution, persons who would have reached their positions by virtue of their personal efforts, work experience or efficiency in carrying out their work responsibilities.

The triumph of the revolution put an end to this state of affairs and the institution began to be reorganized. Zealous investigations showed the truly corrupt nature of the so-called corporation, supposedly in charge of contributing to the development of transportation in the country.

It should not be surprising that the working class would face up to the situation prevailing in the capitalist transport sector and take a stand against the exploitation and the administrative and social corruption.

History of Struggle and Combat

The Cuban workers movement nourishes its history of struggle and combat against the capitalist system with the names of many worker leaders in the transport sector, who gave their lives in defense of the rights of the workers and who waged

intense battles against the bosses and their official representatives, battles whose leaders are inscribed in the history of the workers struggles in the sector as symbols of their action for the economic and labor demands of the workers in the different branches of the sector. Employment in those enterprises and private entities was generally occasional, with the always latent threat of dismissal.

Hunger, poverty, corruption and unemployment were the weapons used by the bourgeoisie in order to plunder the working masses, who hoisted their battle flags and demanded an end to massive layoffs, application of the right to seniority, higher wages, elimination of arbitrary dismissal, elimination of secondary tasks by the same wage, the right to an annual paid vacation, reduction in the work day of 14 and 16 hours, maternity benefits and other economic and social benefits.

Under those conditions, when the means of production were not socially owned and did not meet the country's needs, but rather, served the profit-making interests of the owners, it was not possible to achieve any identification between the workers and their means of work. It was unthinkable that the capitalists would give up their profits in order to help their workers economically and socially. On the contrary, to the same extent that they could get more out of their workers and give them less, their individual wealth grew.

That is why the contradiction between the bourgeoisie and the working class was, is and will remain antagonistic and irreconcilable. The crumbs that could be wrenched out of management under certain circumstances were only a transitory, limited victory not providing solutions to our people's basic problems. There was only one way to put an end to that state of affairs: bringing about the Revolution, taking political power by the workers and turning that corrupt society into a just society.

The workers struggles to achieve solutions to their demands in the sector were a decisive help to our workers in acquiring class awareness and uniting to face the battle before them. One must not forget the role played by transport workers, headed by Jose Maria Perez, in the 1930's. They were the first to begin the general strike that would finally overthrow the tyrant in power. Nor can the battles waged by Aracelio Iglesias at the head of the port workers defending their rights, to give but two examples, be forgotten.

With the triumph of the Revolution on 1 January 1959 and the process of nationalization that followed it, the means of transportation passed into the hands of the working people. They would then be operated in the country's behalf and the main cause giving rise to those contradictions disappeared.

We had left behind exploitation at work, the spectre of unemployment and hunger, social and family insecurity, the moral deterioration and humiliation to which the bourgeoisie and its Yankee masters subjected the workers, but their lessons will always remain as elements helping us to appreciate what we now have more, to have a better understanding of our new role in the socialist society, so that that tradition of struggle will deepen the revolutionary and class awareness of our workers.

Today, the workers movement in the sector is based on all the working people and their socialist state in order to carry on the work of the Revolution. There are

now other motivations carrying us on in the struggle: We are the masters of our destiny, owners of the means of production. We are fighting to develop the country, to consolidate socialism, to raise ever higher the standard of living of the people in all areas.

Comrades:

In analyzing the situation in the different branches of the transport sector and in comparing it with those times, it is easy to see how far we have come.

Overall Development Plan

There is already an overall plan to develop the different branches of transport, which is a harmonious part of the rest of the national economy.

In the Merchant Marine, the Cuban international fleet has been expanded and we now have 75 modern vessels representing a quantitative growth of more than five times what we once had. Our capacity has been increased with general freighters, refrigerated vessels, container ships, grain ships and school ships.

The coastal fleet increased from 16,000 tons to 35,000, which is an increase of over eight times what we had. In other word, on the whole, the Cuban Merchant Marine has already reached a capacity of nearly 1 million tons dead weight, with two enterprises specializing in maritime shipping.

Our country has ships specializing in container transport and it is systematically developing trade with all ports in northern Europe and on the Black Sea. The most modern navigation techniques are being used, which increases safety. Our fleet is one of the best in Latin America and its sailors enjoy well deserved international prestige.

There have been major investments in our ports in order to humanize work and achieve greater productivity. The introduction of mechanization and the expansion of our ports, along with the fight for greater efficiency in connection with organizations of the domestic economy, constitute an important advanced providing us with the possibility of making maximum use of our natural conditions.

Nevertheless, we must point out that in this important task of the ports, we have faced serious organizational deficiencies, although there have been changes in recent years.

We have built and improved ports and improved the process of loading and unloading with the acquisition of equipment, such as overhead, traveling and floating cranes, fleets of freight elevators, containers, specialized transport for bulk goods and a mechanized terminal for the export of refined sugar in bags. New freight, passenger, fishing and fuel terminals have been built, along with new wharves and underwater pipelines. We have expanded the capacities of the mechanical industry for naval repair, maintenance and construction, both for ports as well as for fishing, tourism and maritime works.

Over the past 5 years, we have invested over 80 million pesos in maritime projects and created a capacity of over 300,000 square meters of warehousing, which improved the situation without totally solving it, given the growing volume of our foreign trade.

For the years to come, we plan to invest over 400 million pesos in the maritime-port branch in a program that will culminate at the end of the 1980's. This will increase our loading and unloading capacities and step up international and coastal traffic, with the acquisition of 30 more vessels.

At the present time, the efforts being made to improve the efficiency of the ports are beginning to bear fruit. We must intensify our maintenance of equipment, improve the quality of repairs and constantly improve work organization in order to achieve greater productivity in the loading and unloading of goods, in close connection with the domestic economy, so as to avoid paying demurrage fees and turn results around with income for quick dispatches.

There could be no better homage to Aracelio Iglesias, Jacinto Garcia Espinosa and the pioneer of our Merchant Marine, Andres Gonzalez Lines, than to move forward on this path, which is the way to reward their struggles, desires and sacrifices, on this 20th anniversary of the Ministry of Transport.

Rail Activity

Rail activity is a top priority task of this ministry because of its decisive importance to the country's economic development. Rehabilitation of the system has been one of the tasks to which we have devoted our attention in recent years.

We have activated 140 diesel electric locomotives and increased the freight capacity with 2,000 new cars, 50 percent of which were hoppers used to haul bulk sugar, a new method put into practice by the Revolution.

Investments in the early years of the Revolution were aimed at restoring and repairing American rolling stock and extensive maintenance of the most important lines in order to be able to guarantee our ability to handle the growing freight and passenger traffic.

Beginning in 1972, the process of rehabilitating and modernizing the railroad got underway, consisting of the construction of the rapid central line between Havana and Santiago de Cuba, substantially reducing the time involved and thereby helping passenger and freight traffic.

Nevertheless, it is now that the largest investments in the history of the Cuban railroad are being made. It is a huge undertaking requiring a serious, sustained effort, but it will enable us to have a rail system on a par with the most modern in the world.

Not only will the material and technical base make it possible to achieve this development, but it is necessary that the valuable experience of the railroad workers be assimilated by the young people now being trained to operate the modern equipment and learning discipline, responsibility and the traditional efficiency.

It is necessary to create an efficient and safe railroad and the railroad workers must feel proud to belong to this branch which has so much tradition in the struggles of our workers. The new railroad generations have the duty of preparing to hold on high the spirit of sacrifice and struggle of those who have come before us.

At the present time, a broad range of equipment makes up the truck transport stock. In the past 20 years, we have invested large resources in the acquisition of thousands of trucks of all kinds. There are now over 2,500 and they handle 60 percent of the truck-hauled freight of ministry's public services.

This important means of freight transport has a major effect on the country's domestic economy because the improvement in efficiency represents a constant struggle on the part of the workers. In the heat of this 20th anniversary, we can say that during the first five months of this year, this system has hauled 2 million more tons of freight than during the period from January to May of last year, a favorable balance that we must maintain and improve.

In the past 20 years, our truck pool has more than quadrupled. Likewise, the number of buses has tripled.

Expansion of the means of communications has registered a leap in quality and quantity, which favors the operation of equipment and connects regions that had previously been practically isolated. We have built nearly twice the amount of kilometers of highways and roads that existed at the time of the triumph of the Revolution.

We have also made investments to expand the vehicle repair bases and at the present time, it is possible to completely repair motors, differentials, transmissions and other parts that result in better operation and maintenance of equipment. At the same time, we have moved forward in the restoration and production of spare parts and replacement parts, saving foreign exchange previously used for imports.

Urban Transport

Urban transport has expanded to over 60 areas throughout the country, tripling the services available at the time the ministry was created. A decisive role in this expansion of bus passenger service has been played by the production of buses in our country using imported chassis, which has enabled us to save enormous resources. This has been an undeniable achievement in these years of intense struggle and we shall continue to make progress in the future.

Urban transport in the capital has improved substantially in recent years. That can be no doubt that the growth in the population, which increased 38.5 percent in Havana City in the past two decades, and the increased mobility of the population, which has tripled, has affected the inadequacies observed in urban transport in the capital somewhat. Nevertheless, the experience of recent years shows us that not only must we resolve the problem by increasing the number of vehicles, but also by improving efficiency with organizational measures and by being more

At the present time, in our capital alone, 132 bus routes are in operating, doubling the number existing at the time of the Revolution. This service must continue to improve because it is a necessity so that all the workers can efficiently meet their work responsibilities and at the same time, contribute to the recreation and scattering of our population.

The transportation service by state automobiles was an activity created by the Revolution. It emerged in 1961 as a response to the critical situation created in urban transport as a consequence of the imperialist blockade.

It began in the country's capital and gradually extended to the 18 largest cities. The vehicles have been replaced on several occasions and management has gradually improved, both in the taxi service and the special services unit.

Under the pseudo republic, aviation was always a luxury means of transportation, reserved for tourism and only accessible to the privileged classes. During the first 30 years of its existence in Cuba, it operated under the country of foreign companies and in 1954, it remained in the hands of the tyrant in power and was militarized under Tabernilla, who at that time was head of the army of the tyranny.

The equipment basically came from the United States, as a result of which it was a target of the imperialist blockade, and a gradual change to Soviet equipment was necessary.

This change in technical equipment also made it necessary to overhaul workshops and to train skilled technical personnel within the shortest possible time in order to perform the different operations of this complex transport technique.

At the present time, the Cuban Aviation Enterprise, which only flew to Latin American countries and Madrid, links Cuba with 18 countries on the four continents, quadrupling the number of passengers carried on international routes and doubling its capacity on national routes.

We have built new airports and modernized those already in existence, and we have acquired modern technology, thereby guaranteeing the safety of air navigation.

In the past, agricultural aviation was nonexistent. It now operates with over 160 AN-2 Soviet-made airplanes and a vast system of runways and airborne chemical services. It provides services to over 3 million hectares as a means of increasing agricultural production through more advanced techniques.

In the future, we plan new and greater investments in the aviation branch, which will continue its overall development and contribute to our national economy.

On this occasion, it is worthwhile and necessary to point out the internationalist aid supplied by the Cuban Aviation, Merchant Marine and other workers, on the occasion of the imperialist aggression into Angola and Ethiopia. This was a brilliant homage to the revolutionary soldiers who fought for years in this sector for the happiness of peoples and they deserve our recognition on this occasion.

Material and Technical Aid from USSR

It is also impossible to mention this progress in all branches of the sector without referring to the material and technical aid that we have received from the country of Lenin, from the workers and all the Soviet people, without whose aid we could not have successfully faced the imperialist challenge of the economic blockade.

In the development of our Merchant Marine, its aid and solidarity are present. In the production of our Bay of Pigs buses, the modern road transport equipment, our repair bases, our aviation technology, in every achievement, every advance, every victory, the unselfish help and support of that great nation, which shares our ideals and objectives, are present.

Comrades:

The principal goal of this assembly is to stimulate the thousands of comrades throughout the country and in the different branches of transportation to perform their daily work with self-sacrifice in order to contribute to the economy and guarantee such necessary service to the people.

These achievements that we have mentioned are the fruit of the work of the Moncada, of Granma, the fight in the Sierra Maestra and the plains, of the sweat of our workers. They are the result of over 20 years of relentless efforts to carry the work of the Revolution forward, to consolidate our socialist economy and contribute to the happiness and welfare of the people.

In recognizing these achievements, we are not forgetting the deficiencies we still have. They force us to perfect our work and to take the demand for efficiency and performance to all orders.

On this 20th anniversary, let us propose to make our greatest efforts to optimize our work in the country's ports, to make our work even more efficient, to eliminate demurrage fees, and to systematize rapid turnarounds and make them routine.

Let us set the firm goal to carry out the modernization of the railroad, with efficiency and discipline, until it is on a par with the most highly developed in the world.

Let us continue to work to improve truck transport figures, to increase their productivity, reduce breakdowns and improve economic efficiency.

Let us rigorously and energetically systematize the urban transport service, conscious of what it represents for the operation of our economy and the welfare of the people, both with respect to buses and cars for hire.

Let us daily improve the efficiency of our air transportation for passengers and our agricultural aviation services.

Let us do everything within our power to carry out the overall transportation development plan in each of the branches included. ■

In our lives, let us materialize the desires and hopes of Aracelio, Varona, Jose Maria Perez and so many other martyrs who have fallen for what we now have. Let us be worthy of the tradition of struggle and combat of the workers in our sector.

Long live the 20th anniversary of the Ministry of Transport! Long live the Socialist Revolution! Long live Fidel! Fatherland or death! We shall win!

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BRIEFS

FAR VANGUARDS HONORED--After completing a period of instruction full of important activities in terms of combat and political training, all those who, through their personal effort, outstandingly contributed to the attainment of the significant successes in the units, were given proper recognition. This is what happened on 26 and 29 July to the commanders, officers, sergeants, and enlisted men who came out as vanguard members in socialist competition during the 1980-1981 training year in the units of the EMG [General Staff] and the RAM. Brig Gen Jose A. Moria Gonzalez in the name of the commanders, officers, sergeants, enlisted men, and civilian workers of the MINFAR [Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces] and the EMG, warm congratulations to those honored on this occasion. The function of socialist competition, as a valuable instrument for educating personnel in the principles of communist and proletarian ethics, was evidenced once again in the selection of this large group of vanguard members. They are the comrades who demonstrated a high sense of responsibility toward the accomplishment of their duties by displaying initiative and continually improving their work methods, styles, and habit with a view to becoming even more efficient in the execution of their work. [Excerpts] [Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 9 Aug 81 p 57] 5058

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6 OCT 1981